

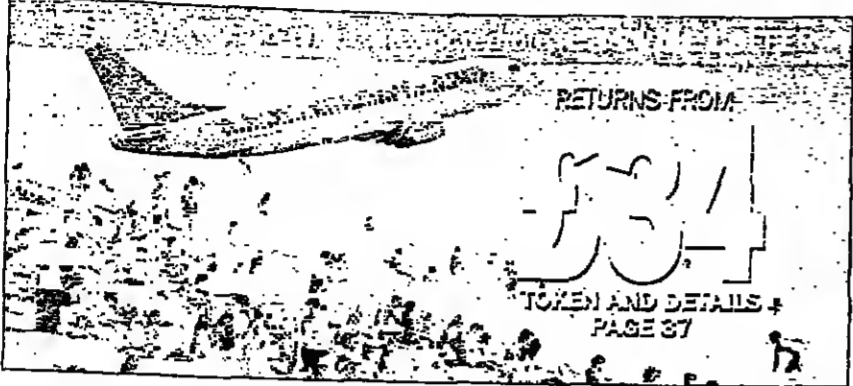
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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1998

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Descent into childhood
John Baker on life with his mother
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Lurid report condemned Clinton aides put Starr in the dock

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE White House yesterday mounted a ferocious counter-attack on prosecutor Kenneth Starr, accusing him of titillating America in order to humiliate President Clinton.

The President's lawyers and aides fanned out across the nation's airwaves to challenge Mr Starr's legal claims and to start a backlash against Mr Starr for packing the 445-page report with lurid sexual details of the affair between Mr Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, the White House assistant.

Deploying the new tactics, Democrat Maxine Waters, a member of the House Judiciary Committee which is now debating Mr Clinton's fate, said: "Ken Starr is on trial as much as anyone."

The X-rated content of the report was the focus of national debate on the weekend when the Starr report detonated over Capitol Hill. Americans frantically clicked through Internet pages, or pored over columns of condensed newspaper, to find that most of the rumours of the eight-month scandal of the President's fling with a 22-year-old White House trainee were in the account.

Many newspapers carried headline warnings that the content was not suitable for children. The White House hoped yesterday that the national unease about the content would play in their favour, and prompt Americans to feel that Mr Starr went too far.

Driving Mr Starr's round-the-clock race to produce his report, he "became a hands-on editor, insisting on more sexual details", Newsweek said yesterday. "He said he wanted all the fact out", the magazine says. "From time to time, his staff had to explain exactly what acts Clinton and Lewinsky were engaged in."

Mr Clinton's admission of "hundreds of affairs early in my marriage", in Ms Lewinsky's account, has inevitably set off a flurry of unconfirmed stories about his relations with other women, even within the White House.

This week will be crucial in showing whether support for Mr Clinton cracks under re-litigation about his behaviour, and in determining whether he survives as President.

INSIDE
If Mr Starr has failed to shock Middle America, his report is unlikely to lead to Mr Clinton's departure

— Bronwen Maddox, page 2

It is inconceivable that he should be able to restore the trust or authority of his presidency?

— William Rees-Mogg, 22

The first polls taken as America digested the Starr report suggested that most people felt Mr Clinton should face some form of formal reprimand for his behaviour. A CBS News poll said for the first time that a majority would favour censure.

But 62 per cent of respondents said that impeachment was not necessary, and only 32 per cent that it was justified. Two-thirds said Mr Clinton should not resign.

This week, in a move which could bolster public support, Mr Clinton is set to urge Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to cut interest rates out of concern for the slowing economy, according to Newsweek.

The President's lawyers yesterday renewed their challenge that the President had done something wrong, but not anything meriting impeachment. "He did not perjure himself" in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, said Mr Clinton's personal lawyer David Kendall.

Attacking the charge of perjury, the most legally troublesome in Mr Starr's list of 11 reasons for impeachment, Mr Kendall said: "Perjury is a crime where you have to intentionally lie. He did not volunteer information, but he did not perjure himself. This was a frivolous case in which

the President's political enemies were out to destroy him."

Signs emerged yesterday that Democrats in Congress were beginning to favour a formal censure rather than calling for his resignation or plunging into traumatic and unpopular hearings on his impeachment.

David Bonior, Democratic Representative from Michigan, called censure a "very real option", given that "doing nothing is unacceptable". He added: "Forgiveness is a very important part of the American character."

Republicans, many of whom want him to resign, fear that impeachment hearings could be so unpopular that they would backfire on the President's accusers.

Tom DeLay, Republican whip in the House of Representatives, said yesterday that it was "too early to say whether the President should be impeached." He added: "This is not about polls; this is not about politics. This is about right and wrong. Whether his President has the moral authority to continue as President."

The Judiciary Committee, which will begin debating whether there is reason to begin impeachment hearings, is considering the report behind locked doors, together with the 2,600 pages of appendices that have not been made public.

The committee will debate whether the appendices, which include transcripts of the phone calls between Ms Lewinsky and her friend Linda Tripp, will ever be made public.

It emerged last night that the President has not read Mr Starr's report. The White House deputy chief of staff, John Podesta, said: "Actually, we talked about that [on Saturday]. He told me that he was not going to read it. I think he's decided that he's said what he has to say to the country. And he is working on the healing process. He's trying to heal his family. He is getting back to the work of the people."

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Clinton hometown, page 3
Peter Riddell, page 22
Leading article, page 23

The mystery jogger

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A CLIP of a five-year-old videotape had Americans wondering whether President Clinton had entertained a second woman in the short but now infamous stretch of windowless corridor that leads from the Oval Office to the president's private study.

The clip, shown on American television, was of Mr Clinton with a dozen joggers in the Oval Office. They leave

by one door, while Mr Clinton and one of the women runners leave into the hallway.

The joggers, volunteers raising money for Mr Clinton's re-election, were invited back to the Oval Office. When the group leaves Mr Clinton asks her: "Which entrance did you come in?" She and he then leave by the other door.

The White House said she was an Arkansas neighbour.

The new wonder drug — a cuppa

BY ALAN HAMILTON

AMERICA may live to rue the day it dumped that shipload of tea in Boston harbour. The world's biggest coffee-drinking nation has discovered that the alternative beverage may be the wonder drug of the age, a panacea for all manner of life-threatening diseases.

It has taken a symposium of scientists in Washington to stumble upon what this side of the Atlantic has known all along: putting the kettle on for a cuppa is a magical restorative.

national Scientific Symposium heard experts from around the world declare that tea may have greater anti-oxidant properties than most fruit and that drinking just one cup will do you as much good as eating a portion of fresh vegetables. Antioxidants are believed to play an important preventative role against cancer and heart disease.

Dr John Weisburger, a senior member of the American Health Foundation, told delegates: "Tea has great potential to help reduce the incidence of major disease worldwide, especially when combined with a healthy lifestyle. In the past

eight years we have made tremendous strides in understanding the potential of both black and green tea to prevent chronic illness, which has important implications for public health."

Dr Junshi Chen of the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine reported experiments in Beijing, where rubbing liquid tea on lesions significantly reduced the growth of pre-cancerous cells.

Tests on mice had shown that tea restricted the development of lung and colon cancers, and appeared to decrease the risk of digestive tract cancer.



Christie's 'should stop Scott sale'

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE SCOTT Polar Research Institute last night called on Christie's to withdraw from sale artefacts taken from Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expedition huts that are due to be auctioned on Thursday.

Dr John Heap, executive director of the institute and chairman of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, added his voice to calls by Jeff Rubin, the author, in a letter to *The Times* for the candle lantern, leather sledging traces and a coat hook to be sent back to where they belong.

Christie's insists that the items belong to the retired New Zealand Air Force officer who removed them in 1957 because they were taken two years before an international treaty preserving the sites.

But Dr Heap said last night he had contacted the Foreign Office and New Zealand Government and would press Christie's today at a private viewing.

Letters, page 23

Albanian Cabinet flees armed mob

BY CHRIS BROADHURST

CROWDS stormed the main government building in Tirana yesterday looting Fatos Nano, the Albanian Prime Minister and his Cabinet to flee in a hail of gunfire. One protester was killed and four guards were wounded.

Europe and the United States appealed for calm, fearful that the turmoil could topple the Government and spread to neighbouring Kosovo.

The protesters, incensed by the murder on Saturday of Azem Hajdari, 35, an opposition politician, stormed the government building, opening fire on the third floor, which contains Mr Nano's offices, and then set fire to the building.

Dr Sali Berisha, the leader of the Opposition, blamed Mr Nano's Socialist Party for the killing of Mr Hajdari and warned him to resign or face "catastrophic consequences." His followers chanted "kill, kill, kill Fatos Nano."

Witnesses said Dr Berisha's followers blocked a motorway

with barricades and flaming tyres and seized the police station at Kavaja, 18 miles southwest of the capital.

At the same time, the Interior Ministry reported "unlawful developments" in "other towns" but gave no further details. Ministry spokesman, Arnan Bizha also said the situation in the country's maximum security prison was "tense."

The US Embassy in Tirana urged Albanians to "put down their weapons, cease threatening violence and pursue legitimate democratic and legal means to deal with the situation."

"Leaders of all Albania's political parties must behave responsibly," the American statement said.

The violence raised fears of a repeat of the 1997 nationwide riots which swept Albania after the collapse of pyramid investment schemes that cost many Albanians their life savings.

Tirana riots, page 13

Labour faces a rough ride at TUC

BY JILL SHERMAN AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TRADE union leaders yesterday gave a warning that a recession was imminent.

They launched a comprehensive attack on Gordon Brown's economic policy, including his proposals for private sector finance in public projects. The Government is now heading for a surprise defeat at the TUC Blackpool conference over one of the Chancellor's key economic policies after one of the larger unions, the GMB general workers' union withdrew its support for the plan.

John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, tried to play down the jobs crisis but trade union leaders were quick to break ranks and call for emergency action to protect jobs, warning that a recession was hours away. Mr Monks was also unable to contain a potentially damaging row over the single currency as it emerged that some of the biggest unions were split over early entry to EMU.

With clear signs that trade union leaders feel that the Government's honeymoon with them has been long enough, Tony Blair looks set for a rough ride when he attends the Congress for a dinner on Tuesday night. But today John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will lead a group of cabinet ministers defending the Government's policy.

Mr Prescott will justify the Government's decision to transfer responsibility for the setting of interest rates to the Bank of England and underline the need for long term stability. Gordon Brown has to attend a crisis meeting of financial ministers in Japan.

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Public opinion will decide whether the Comeback Kid triumphs

America was silent at the weekend, apart from the click of computer mice on Internet symbols and the turning of sheets of newsprint, as President Clinton's public pored over the Starr report — and agonised about whether it still wanted him to occupy the White House.

This is the fortnight that will determine whether Bill Clinton stays in office. The President's team were clinging to hopes yesterday, after a searing defence by his lawyers and spin doctors, that the Comeback Kid might just pull it off.

If so, it will be because the American public and Congress blame Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, even more than Mr

COMMENTARY
Bronwen Maddox

Clinton for showering them with the most explicit sexual details to emerge about a President of the United States.

The factor most capable of sending Mr Clinton packing within weeks is a collapse in his support from ordinary Americans. Yesterday, opinion polls showed his approval ratings slipping, but by only a sliver. They were still standing just below 60 per cent — an astounding tribute by the standards of any presidency.

That tolerance has been the

single most astonishing phenomenon of the eight-month saga: a country whose puritanical roots still show clearly, has shown a willingness — indeed, determination — to separate the personal from the public.

The next couple of weeks will show whether the details Mr Starr so excitedly packed into his report will puncture that mental wall holding back conservatism. There is a real risk for Mr Starr that, instead, there will be a backlash against him.

Newsweek magazine asserted yesterday that during the race to write the report, Mr Starr stood over his team, urging them to insert yet more sexual detail. That rings true. The son of an evang-

list minister who delivered sermons saying that women should not wear shorts, Mr Starr is about to find out whether he is more prudent, more easily shocked, more inexperienced, and simply more interested in sexual details than many Americans.

There are other factors at play in determining America's verdict, beyond Mr Starr's control. Americans still appear untruffed by the new threat to the economic goldrush which Mr Clinton claims to have showered on the country. A collapse in the feel-good factor will inevitably hurt Mr Clinton.

But if Mr Starr has failed to shock Middle America, his report

is unlikely to lead to Mr Clinton's immediate departure. That is not to say his report is legally innocuous; on the contrary, of the 11 grounds for impeachment in his report, three are strong enough to present serious legal problems to Mr Clinton's team.

Top of the list is the charge that Mr Clinton lied under oath when he denied having sex with Ms Lewinsky. The President's defence that oral sex does not constitute sex, peddled once again by his lawyer David Kendall yesterday, is farcical. But Americans appear deeply divided on whether that lie deserves impeachment.

So does Congress. Republicans know what they really want: the

immediate resignation of the President. But if that most dogged fighter does not quit, Republicans are not at all sure that they want to impeach him.

In months of impeachment hearings, they would run the same risk that Mr Starr has done of appearing vengeful, intolerant, and petty, and of destroying the presidency in the name of saving it. On the Democratic side, pressure is emerging for the "compromise solution" of a Congressional censure. That would allow Congress to give him a formal rap over the knuckles, but would forestall tortuous months — or years — of impeachment hearings.

David Bonior, Representative from Michigan, made it clear yesterday that this was the solution of which Democrats are dreaming. Censure was a "very real option", he said, "as he thought that 'doing nothing was unacceptable'". He argued that it was what many Americans wanted, as "forgiveness is a very important part of the American character".

Given any sign from the opinion polls that Americans are prepared to forgive Mr Clinton, those Democrats who still support him will rush to build support for formal censure.

In these crucial days, the outcome is the White House's best hope.

Lawyers' battalion starts fightback

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

WHITE HOUSE

The White House launched the full force of its counter-attack on Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, sending a phalanx of lawyers and spin doctors out to blanket the nation's airwaves yesterday.

"This isn't a case of anyone trying to justify the President's behaviour," David Kendall, his personal lawyer, said. "But there is nothing in this report which amounts to high crimes and misdemeanours."

Mr Kendall said that the Clinton team had still not seen the raw evidence behind Mr Starr's report and had been able to prepare their rebuttal only because of the flood of leaks. "It wasn't the tooth fairy [behind the leaks]; it was the prosecutors in Starr's office," he said.

House's appeal to the public is that Mr Starr stuffed his report with explicit sexual details solely to humiliate and discredit the President. "It was wholly unnecessary to include salacious details and I hope the people will not be led down the path Starr has tried to lead us down," Mr Ruff said.

That argument won much support in Congress yesterday, from Republicans and Democrats, and from leading commentators. Richard Ben-Veniste, the former Watergate prosecutor, said: "Starr the independent counsel has merged with Starr the publisher of a supermarket tabloid". Beyond that political

appeal, the White House is launching a point-by-point legal defence. Mr Starr's first, and strongest, accusation is that Mr Clinton lied under oath in his deposition in the Paula Jones case when he denied having a "sexual relationship", a "sexual affair" or "sexual relations" with Monica Lewinsky.

The President says when Ms Lewinsky performed oral sex on him that did not constitute sexual relations. "He was giving answers to a very narrow and technical definition," Mr Kendall said yesterday. Most Americans find that risible. But it is a plausible legal defence, with one huge problem: according to Monica Lewinsky's evidence in the Starr report, Mr Clinton

touched her intimately in return. If true, that would mean his evidence was a direct lie.

Mr Starr's second most powerful accusation — connected to the first — is that the President repeated that lie on August 17 before a federal grand jury. Mr Clinton's lawyers are trying to perform the same legal manoeuvre as in the first allegation: arguing that Mr Clinton believed he was telling the truth, according to the definition of sex he thought the court was using.

The third claim likely to give the President's lawyers trouble is that he could not remember being alone with Ms Lewinsky. Mr Starr's team say that must be untrue, given the nature of events when he was alone with her.



Lawyers David Kendall, left, and Charles Ruff

The White House is on surer ground in attacking Mr Starr's accusations that Mr Clinton tried to tamper with witnesses, tried to obstruct justice, or abused his office. Mr Clinton's lawyers say that his denial of the affair on January 26 was not an abuse of his office: "Lying to the people does not constitute abuse of power, defined as corrupt use of the office for personal gain or some other improper purpose."

William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 22
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Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, chats yesterday with one of the US Marshals in his bodyguards

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Public's support starting to wane

Washington: Polls indicate that although President Clinton's public support is still high, it is weakening (Ian Brodie writes).

Results are often mixed, reflecting the confusion as Americans digest the full impact of Mr Clinton's lies. The polls still show approval for the way he does his job, with three showing his rating steady at between 56 and 62 per cent, where it has been for months.

A *Newsweek* poll found that

POLLS

39 per cent of Americans want Mr Clinton to resign, up from 31 per cent three weeks ago, but 58 per cent said he should stay in office. Asked if Congress should begin impeachment hearings, 35 per cent said "yes", 60 per cent "no", a change in the past three weeks from 24 per cent "yes" and 69 per cent "no".

The idea of censuring the President rather than impeaching him found support among 58 per cent of respondents, according to a CNN-Gallup poll.

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What the Founding Fathers meant

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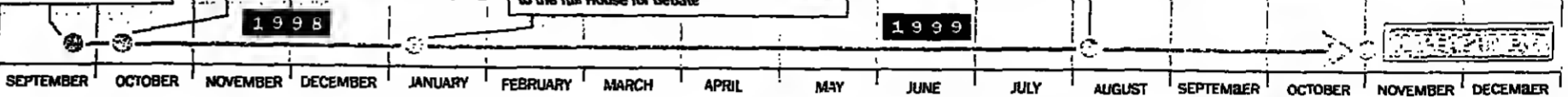
The House Judiciary Committee, 22 Republicans and 15 Democrats, must recommend to the full House by September 29 whether to release the rest of the Starr material

The Judiciary Committee will next conduct an inquiry into the Starr report and White House refusal to determine if there are grounds for formal impeachment proceedings. If it votes yes the full House has to agree, before October 9, when the House is in recess, or in November or December if called back into session

Newly elected Congress assembles on January 4 opening the way for the Judiciary Committee to hold televised hearings into allegations. The Committee has the power to call witnesses, including Monica Lewinsky and Linda Tripp, and to broaden the area of inquiry. The hearings could last several months before a vote is taken on articles of impeachment, which are then passed to the full House for debate

This chain of events could be triggered at any point if President Clinton resigns. He would be replaced by Vice-President Al Gore who would take the oath of office. Mr Gore could pick his own vice-president who, not having been elected, would require the approval of Congress

If the House votes by a simple majority to impeach, the case is passed to the Senate for a trial, which could last three months. President Clinton could be convicted on the votes of 67 or more of the 100 Senators



Hometown wrestles with faith in favourite son

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN HOPE, ARKANSAS

AS THE Starr report hit America like a hurricane, a real storm broke over Arkansas. Tropical Storm Frances howled and dumped torrential rain without respite for two days.

"I hope it isn't a comment," said Elsie Moon grimly. Hope, the little town where Bill Clinton was born, and which he romanticised in later years with talk of its giant watermelons and traditional values, is reeling at the news that its favourite son is the focus of a report so salacious that parents were fretting about keeping it away from their children.



Falba Lively, Mr Clinton's cousin, in her gift shop

At first they gave the impression that they could not care less about the report: no one seemed to be talking about it. The shoppers in Wal-mart and the men tucking into the boiled shrimp and frogs legs breakfast special at the Western Sizzlin diner were full of talk of flash-floods and pile-ups on the road. The local television news led on Tropical Storm Frances and skipped over Clinton in a couple of sentences.

after his seventh birthday to move to nearby Hot Springs, but even today he has family and many friends in the town. His cousin, Falba Lively, the daughter of Mr Clinton's great-uncle Buddy, still works in the gift shop in the Western Sizzlin diner selling a bewildering array of Clinton trinkets.

"One of my sons is at church, the other one is sleeping. They don't care anything about this. People don't," she said at first. She talked animatedly about the annual Hope watermelon festival. But then her eyes filled with tears and she became distressed. "We still love Bill Clinton, Ken Starr is right out of line."

him winning the Most Beautiful Baby contest sat on the mantelpiece. With an adjoining museum and study centre packed with pictures and memorabilia, more than 5,500 visitors have passed through since it opened last year. Barbara Streisand has donated \$10,000 for a memorial garden to the President's late mother, Virginia.

"The people in Hope are completely supportive of the President. But that doesn't mean they are not disappointed and sad," said Beckie Moore, executive director of the Clinton Birthplace Foundation. "His phrase about still believing in a place called Hope has been tossed about a lot, but he really does believe that and that's because he had a good, home-grown upbringing. That's what you get here in Hope. A lot of love and attention."



Beckie Moore at the town's visitor centre dedicated to its favourite son

What the Founding Fathers meant

By IAN BRODIE

DEBATE is growing in Washington over just what the US Constitution means by an impeachable offence and whether President Clinton's transgressions qualify.

CONGRESS

for his personal behaviour. At issue is whether Mr Clinton's alleged perjury and obstruction of justice add up to high crimes or misdemeanours within the meaning of the Constitution.

Supporters hope for impeachment deal

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS

THE timing could not be worse. The Clintons and the Gores will be together in Manhattan today for the Democratic Party's biggest fundraising event of the year. However, several of New York's leading Democrats somehow will find themselves too busy to fit the visit into their schedule.

such as FDR Drive on the East River to be closed for hours at a stretch. In urging Mr Clinton to end his legal quibbling, Bob Kerrey, a Democratic senator, said it was inconsistent for the President to confess he had sinned while his lawyers were challenging Kenneth Starr's claim that his earlier statements denying a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky were false.

Candidates for other offices also pleaded that they were too busy pounding the wards and knocking on doors to be socialising with the Clintons and Gores. The truth is, no one running for office in a tight race wants to be too closely identified with the President at this particular time.

World press opinion divided

By CHRIS BROADHURST

MEDIA

NEWSPAPERS were dominated yesterday by coverage of the Starr report. Many editorials in the American press called for President Clinton to resign. The Washington Post concluded that "Mr Clinton's behaviour is at the margins of impeachability."

which is so infantile it actually considers bringing down a President for doing what goes on all over the world. In France, *Le Journal du Dimanche* said: "More than ever, the Comeback Kid seems determined to fight."

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THE TIMES MONDAY

A quarter of girls in care become pregnant

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A quarter of girls in care become pregnant

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

ONE in four young women in institutional care is either pregnant or already a mother by the time she leaves to set up home on her own, according to a report by the National Children's Bureau.

Rates of teenage pregnancy ranged from 14 to 25 per cent among girls aged under 20 who were in care or who had recently left care, compared with 3 per cent for the nation as a whole.

Also, girls who had children while being looked after by a local authority tended to have less support than those who did not become pregnant.

The report, funded by the Department of Health, raises serious questions about the role of local authorities in protecting vulnerable young people in their charge and is likely to be scrutinised by ministers, who have pledged to cut the rate of unwanted teenage pregnancies.

Judith Corlyon, co-author of the report, said that most of the 30 youngsters she interviewed for the study had become sexually active at a very young age. This was prompted partly by peer pressure and partly by a need for affection — something some of them had rarely received from their own families.

One young woman said: "You feel left out so you do it because everyone else does."

Another said that the lives of youngsters in care were so unpleasant that "they feel better if they are going to bed with someone".

Ms Corlyon said: "What differentiated this group was a lack of self-esteem, which meant they succumbed more easily to pressure."

Few of the girls interviewed had wanted to become pregnant. As a life in care had resulted in frequent interruptions to their schooling, many had not received much in the way of sex education.

The study called for better sex education for youngsters in care and closer co-ordination between different caring agencies to improve services for young mothers once they left care.

Author creates a storm over 'plundered' polar artefacts

By STEPHEN FARRELL

POLAR experts have accused Christie's of damaging Antarctica's cultural heritage by including artefacts from Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expeditions in an auction later this week.

In a letter to *The Times* Jeff Rubin, author of the Lonely Planet guide book *Antarctica: A Travel Survival Kit*, calls for four lots removed from the explorers' base huts 41 years ago to be withdrawn from the London sale catalogue and returned to their historic sites.

The Foreign Office has also written to the auction house seeking information on the artefacts' ownership, and to the New Zealand government — within whose Antarctic territories the huts fall — informing them of the sale.

The objects include a candle lamp from Shackleton's Cape Royds hut on his 1907-09 expedition; leather sledge straps from Captain Scott's 1902-04 Discovery Expedition Hut at Hut Point; a brass coat-hook from Scott's Cape Evans cubicle on his final, doomed 1910-1913 expedition and a glass beaker, crucible and bottles from Dr Edward Adrian Wilson's cubicle on the same trip. The objects, lots 210-214 among hundreds of works of art and memorabilia in Christie's Exploration and Travel sale on September 17, are expected to fetch £13,000. The lamp alone is valued at between £3,000 to £5,000.

They were taken from the huts in 1957 by John Claydon, a retired Royal New Zealand Air Force Wing Commander who ran air support for the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition. Claydon's expedition, the first to achieve a land crossing of the continent, set up its own bases near the historic huts used by Scott and Shackleton, which still had food tins, remains of equipment and skeletons of animals lying around in the open. However it was not until two years later, under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, that the sites became protected and visitors were banned from removing such objects.

In his letter to *The Times* Mr Rubin concedes that during the 1950s, "it was a common practice for the rare visitor to Antarctica to take souvenirs from the camps of previous expeditions".

But he points out that attitudes to preservation of historic sites have changed, and says: "For Christie's to auction



Shackleton: items include his lamp

such irreplaceable artefacts of Antarctica's history suggests to me either woeful ignorance of — or merely disregard for — the spirit of the treaty."

His concern is echoed by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and other groups in Britain and New Zealand. Captain Pat McLaren, honorary secretary of the UK trust, said his New Zealand counterparts had already visited Wing Commander Claydon in a vain effort to persuade him to remove the items from sale.

"We feel very strongly about this. As the Christie's catalogue itself acknowledges, Claydon took these things out of the abandoned huts in 1957, and he took them as souvenirs. Our chairman is writing to the chairman of Christie's expressing our concern about the situation, particularly about the ownership, the morality and to point out that these artefacts should go back where they came."

The issue echoes the controversy over accusations of looted art which last year led Sotheby's to issue a new code of conduct banning the sale of works of art and artefacts if staff suspected they had been looted.

At a public viewing yesterday Christie's associate director Nicholas Lambourn defended the artefacts' inclusion in the sale. He pointed out that by removing objects from earlier expeditions Wing Commander Claydon only did what Scott himself had done in 1901 by taking a flag from Borchgrevink's 1899 wintering hut. He also said that expeditions often deliberately left items for future trips to use, and that in 1957 the huts were open to blizzards and ice so, by removing objects, later visitors were preserving what might otherwise have been lost or destroyed.

Mr Lambourn admitted, however, that it was a "sensitive issue" and confirmed that Christie's had received a letter from the Foreign Office. "They have made an inquiry to us seeking information about the items," he said last night.

"To the best of our knowledge Wing Commander Claydon has good title. The Antarctic area is a fairly knew area for us. There might be examples like this where there

became the first Briton to walk solo and unsupported to the South Pole, agreed that it would be "sacrilege" for modern visitors to take even a stone or a tin from historic sites, but said problems arose with material taken many years ago.

David Hempleman-Adams, the polar explorer who in 1995

romantic side of me would be that they should be returned to the original site. On the other hand you are talking about hundreds of thousands of artefacts taken over the years. Should they start hunting for them to send them all back?"

"It is a very fine line. The

Letters, page 23

Rival bid could be made for Manchester United

By CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING investment bank yesterday confirmed that it had been asked to speak to Manchester United's financial advisers on behalf of a mystery client.

Salomon Smith Barney said it had been instructed to talk to HSBC Holdings, advisers to the football club, but did not identify the client.

The announcement immediately sparked speculation that a rival offer may be made for the club following BSKyB's £623 million bid, which was backed by Manchester United's board last week.

A spokeswoman for Salomon Smith Barney said: "We have been asked by a client to approach HSBC for information on Manchester United." However, she added: "This is very ordinary practice when a large bid has just been made for a company — other interested parties will consider the position." She dismissed as "rubbish" suggestions that the US bank itself was planning a rival bid.

BSKyB, in which News International, which owns *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, has already received undertakings from the directors of the club, who own 17 per cent of the business, that they will sell their shares to BSKyB.

Manchester United's board, however, would be legally bound to consider any offer of greater value than that from BSKyB. A spokesman for BSKyB remained "very confident" that the company's bid for the club would be successful. He said: "We think it [BSKyB's offer] is in the best interests of the club, the fans and the shareholders of Manchester United."

Maurice Watkins, one of Manchester United's directors and its solicitor, said that he had no comment to make about Salomon Smith Barney's statement.

A Gallup poll for the *Sunday Telegraph* found that 47 per cent of those questioned believed the Government should intervene to block the takeover of the club by BSKyB, compared with 40 per cent who said it should not.



Shackleton's lamp, from his 1907 Antarctic expedition, is estimated at £3,000



Bottles from Edward Wilson's hut at Cape Evans

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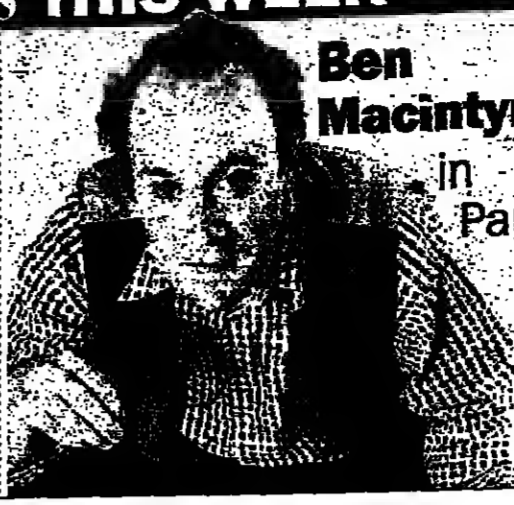
Roger Boyes
in Bonn



Anna Blundy
in Moscow



Giles Whittell
in Los Angeles



Ben Macintyre
in Paris



Bronwen Maddox
in Washington

VOICES WITH AUTHORITY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Arrival of Viagra will cause chaos, BMA says

IN A warehouse somewhere in northern France, Pfizer has been assembling stocks of the little blue pill that impotent men all over Europe have been awaiting for months. Their wait should come to an end tomorrow when the European Commission is expected to approve last month's recommendation by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency that Viagra should be licensed. Once the Commission completes that formality, the pill can be prescribed throughout the European Union and Pfizer has been building stocks in anticipation of demand.

As soon as the licence is issued, containers of the pill will be dispatched to destinations all over Europe. Some will be heading to Britain, where major distributors are making plans to speed it to every corner of the country. UniChem, one of the largest pharmaceutical suppliers, will be sending stocks from its central depot at Letchworth in Hertfordshire to its 12 satellite depots, making it possible for any chemist to receive an order within three hours.

Brussels is expected to approve licensing of anti-impotence drug tomorrow. Ian Murray reports

What nobody really knows yet is who will be able to get it, apart from private patients who are able to pay a specialist to treat their impotence by prescribing it for them.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, told the Commons in June that once licensed Viagra would be available on the National Health Service to meet clinical need. However, the popularity of the pill in the United States since it became available in March has alarmed the Health Department, health authorities and GPs.

There are an estimated 2.5 million impotent men in Britain, and no one knows how many of them will want to try Viagra. The British Medical Association calculates that if all these men were prescribed the drug the cost would exceed £1 billion a year. But specialists believe that

only about 250,000 of those for whom Viagra is suitable will want a prescription, adding £100 million to the annual NHS drugs bill.

Pfizer, the drug's manufacturer, claims that no more than 150,000 men are likely to be prescribed the pill regularly. The company says if each of them were given one or two tablets a week the annual bill would be no more than £50 million compared with the £12 million now spent on impotence treatment.

The medical profession is clamouring for national guidelines; doctors do not want to find themselves in the invidious position of having to ration the drug. If all those in clinical need who ask for help are to be treated fairly, the BMA argues, the Government must tell them how to decide who will receive it. The Government has re-

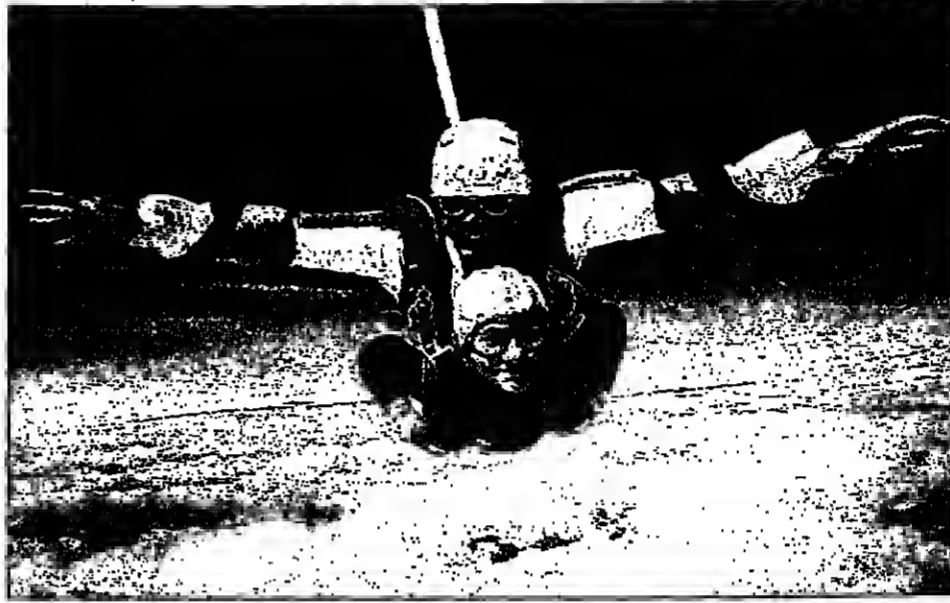
ferred the matter to the Standing Medical Advisory Committee, but has yet to hear back. It hopes to issue guidelines as soon as possible after the licence is issued, but is not saying when that will be. In the meantime, specialists are expecting chaos.

"Quite frankly I expect it to be hell," said Derek Machin, a Liverpool urologist, who has been negotiating with his local health authority for a budget for Viagra. "We have no idea what is going to hit us and are just not prepared."

One idea is that the Government may insist that Viagra can be prescribed only by urologists after referral from a GP. However, there are only 400 urologists in Britain. They are already one of the most overworked specialties with the longest waiting lists. If they had to vet clinical need in all impotent men it would extend the waiting lists even further, meaning men with serious conditions would go longer without treatment.

Julian Shah, consultant urologist at the Middlesex Hospital in London, said that Viagra was actually cheaper than other treatments, such as injections, available on the NHS. "These people are suffering from a genuine condition for which there is now a good treatment," he said. "I do not see how we can be so heartless as to deny them the use of it."

The Impotence Association is not expecting a stampede of applications from impotent men. "Nine out of ten men suffering from it don't see their doctor about it," said Ann Craig, its director.



Air sports, including skydiving, claimed more than 50 victims from 1988 to 1992

Sports injuries show rugby is the riskiest

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 160 people die from sports injuries every year, mostly during water and air sports, motor racing and horse riding. More than 500,000 are taken to hospital after overdoing exercises. Although rugby is the most dangerous game, even golf, bowls and snooker claim victims.

A survey shows that sport is a risky business. Apart from deaths and hospital cases, GPs handle about 4 million sports injuries a year and another 14 million are treated in the home.

The survey, by David Ball, of Middlesex University's environmental sciences department, looks at the relative danger of every sport based on the number of people who participate and the number of times each individual takes part. "Participation in sport and exercise carries with it a variety of risks, including occasionally fatalities and, more often, musculoskeletal injuries, risks to the heart and harm through wear and tear."

Professor Ball writes in the journal *Sports Exercise Injury*.

The figures for 1983 to 1992 show no apparent increase in the number of sports fatalities, which average 163 a year. By comparison, in 1992 there were 3,628 road fatalities, 4,521 died in accidents in the home and 400 people were killed at work. "Sport and leisure contribute a fairly modest amount to the overall total of deaths, though not one which should be disregarded or undervalued."

Between 1988 and 1992, figures show water-related sports are the most dangerous, with 191 drowning while swimming, 69 lost boating or sailing and 50 dying while fishing. On land, motor sports (65 deaths), followed by horse riding (62), and mountaineering (51) claimed most lives.

Among games, soccer, with 14 deaths, had the most fatalities, with rugby, hockey and cricket recording two each. Three badminton players died, as did nine people while

jogging. There was one fatality each over the five years in tennis, golf and gymnastics. Air sports, mostly light aircraft and hang-gliding, claimed 51 victims.

Professor Ball worked out a relative risk factor for each sport, showing how many among 100,000 participants in each sport receive injuries severe enough to put them in hospital. On this basis, rugby emerges as the most dangerous game, with 440 players from every 100,000 participating in games on one afternoon needing hospital treatment.

Although soccer players account for 44 per cent of all hospital cases, the game is less than half as dangerous as rugby, with only 200 out of every 100,000 receiving serious injuries. Cricket, hockey and skiing are equally dangerous, with 130 hospital cases for each 100,000.

Overall, for every sports fatality, 4,000 people need hospital treatment and 25,000 see their GP or practice nurse.

Death of diver prompts breathing gear alert

By LISA THOMLINSON

A DIVER found dead in 12ft of water after an extensive air and sea search was using a new type of equipment that has been blamed for the deaths of three people this year.

Keith Milburn, 44, a business consultant from Carryduff in Belfast, had been diving for edible crabs with five others from a boat off Cloagh Head, near Ardglass, Co Down. He completed his dive safely but returned to the water to retrieve a piece of equipment and failed to resurface at 7.30pm on Saturday. His body was found near the diving site at noon yesterday.

Mr Milburn is thought to have died of oxygen poisoning. He was using breathing apparatus that has only been on the market a year, and is a modern version of equipment developed by the military during the Second World War. It works by re-oxygenating exhaled air by filtering it through a series of chemicals, to be re-breathed by the diver.

The British Sub Aqua Club has warned its 50,000 members not to use it while they carry out a safety check following the previous three deaths.

Ian Murdock, watch manager at Belfast Marine Rescue Subcentre, said: "It is not safe. Four people have died now and thousands of these diving sets have apparently been sold. One death is too many, but four from the same system is not acceptable. This needs to be looked into urgently. Divers using the equipment are either not heeding the warnings or they are not using the system properly."

The system, which costs about £3,000 compared with a few hundred pounds for normal breathing apparatus, has proved popular for underwater photography because it does not generate bubbles. During the war it enabled divers to sneak unseen into enemy harbours. It also allows divers to stay under water for up to 12 hours.

David Vincent, the owner of DV Diving in Bangor, Co Down, said he may stop selling the re-breather gear after the most recent death. He said that he had taught the new system to a diver, Nick Gatto, who died while using it off Cork last month.

Divers using the equipment have also died off the Norfolk coast and in the English Channel in the last year.

He said: "I would only train qualified divers to use the equipment. It is complex and that is what I aim to explain to the divers. It is not as simple to use as an open circuit re-breather."

THE HEALTH GUIDELINES THAT WILL DISAPPOINT

A MIDLANDS health authority will disappoint thousands of men seeking Viagra if the drug is licensed, by telling GPs not to prescribe it (Mark Henderson writes).

North Nottinghamshire health authority has taken action because of concerns about cost and safety. GPs were told that new impotence treatments should be available only in hospitals, and were advised not to refer new patients to specialist clinics until resources permit. The authority said it had problems funding existing impotence treatments, and

that demand for Viagra was likely to exceed available funds. It raised concerns about safety of the drug, which has been linked to more than 20 deaths in the US, and advised GPs not to prescribe new drugs until they had been licensed for a year. Richard Hook, chairman of the local medical committee, said doctors had accepted the guidelines reluctantly.

Jeffrey Worrall, chief executive of the authority, said: "What we are doing is what any prudent health authority in the country will be doing."

Boys feel pressure to pick tough toys

By IAN MURRAY

BOYS as young as four try to make themselves look more masculine when they play with their peers than when they are alone, psychologists have discovered. They carefully choose toys that males are supposed to prefer and show rigid gender stereotypes.

The researchers, from Essex University, found that girls and older children were nowhere near as fixed in their attitude to gender as young boys. Boys aged from four to six seemed very preoccupied with showing their playmates how masculine they were.

The researchers asked boys and girls up to nine years old whether they played games or with toys traditionally linked to one sex or the other. It was only the younger

boys who insisted they did not play with dolls and preferred very male toys.

The children were tested by being asked what toys characters in stories were likely to want. The young boys chose masculine toys even for characters who were effeminate. When asked to describe themselves by answering a set of questions, only the young boys were keen to show their masculinity. This was even more evident when they answered questions in a group.

The paper, presented to a British Psychological Society conference yesterday, said the results highlighted the early emergence of concerns about social evaluation in children and that those concerns were different for boys and girls.

Quiz show makes BT a millionaire

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VIEWERS trying to get on the television game show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* are lining the pockets of BT and the programme makers. It was disclosed last night, BT has earned about £1 million from the premium rate phone lines and Celador, the company behind the series, is on course to make a similar amount.

So far the largest amount won by a contestant is £64,000. Technically, contestants can win £1 million if they answer 15 general knowledge questions correctly.

Last night Celador promised that its profits would either go to charity or towards making a second series. BT said that operating costs had to be deducted from the figure.

In order to try to win a place on the show, callers paid £1 for a two-minute call to an 0891 number that gave them the chance to answer a general knowledge question. More than three million people rang the number. BT rented the lines to Celador for 17p a minute. The volume of calls was so great that it interfered with the taped telephone message from the show's host, Chris Tarrant.

The telephone watchdog, the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, has received more than 20 complaints. But it will not be taking any action because the problem was technical and not deliberate, a spokesman said.

GAMES OF CHANCE

Fatal accident rates		Sports in order of risk of injury	
Activity	Number of fatalities England and Wales 1988-92	Activity	Per 100,000 participating
Swimming	151	Rugby	440
Boating and sailing	69	Soccer	200
Motor sports	65	Cricket	130
Horse riding	62	Hockey	130
Air sports	51	Skiing	130
Mountaineering	51	Netball	82
Fishing	50	Athletics (track & field)	69
Soccer	14	Motor sport	58
Running/jogging	9	Basketball	39
Badminton	8	Squash	29
Cricket	2	Riding/horse sport	26
Hockey	2	Climbing/mountaineering	17
Rugby	2	Tennis	15
Golf	1	Badminton	14
Gymnastics	1	Fishing	11
Tennis	1	Sailing	11
		Running/jogging	7
		Golf	5
		Bowls	3
		Swimming	2
		Table tennis	1
		Table stick sport	0.2

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سكوت من الاصل

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Melanie Brown's mansion, left; David Beckham, the Manchester Utd and England footballer and his fiancée Victoria Adams (Posh Spice); Emma Bunton (Baby Spice); a paparazzi viewpoint; and Melanie Chisholm (Sporny Spice)

First Spice Girl gets spliced

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH AND CAROL MIDGLEY

ENTERPRISING locals in Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire, made the wedding of the first Spice Girl to get married a money-spinning event of which the singer's agents would have been proud.

As the world's media gathered outside the garden of Melanie Brown's mansion — where she wed Jimmy Gubar, a Spice Boy dancer with the group — Philip Emmett, a farmer, charged £5 to park in his yard. The primary school charged £20.

Mr Emmett's brother, Nick, whose house overlooks the manor which Ms Brown — Scary Spice — recently bought for £2.25 million, rented his bathroom to paparazzi for £500 and a share of any profits.

A massive security operation surrounded the wedding ceremony and subsequent party to protect the couple's exclusive deal with OK! magazine, reported to be £350,000.

The wrought-iron gates outside the house were draped with white sheets. A canvas tunnel had been built to cover the route from a gate in the mansion garden wall to the nearby church door, shielding guests from view.

Tight security was extended throughout the village. There

were traffic cones on both sides of the winding lanes and police and security guards lined the streets. Some 15 police officers cordoned off the road to the house. Residents were asked to move their cars to allow guests to drive freely through the village.

OK! had ten security guards to protect its investment and the Spice Girls employed another 30. One sat at the back of the church, before sweeping the stone building for remote-controlled cameras.

Two photographers had tried to sleep outside the church in their cars the night before the wedding, but one was arrested and spent the night in a police cell.

All of the 150 guests at the ceremony in the 12th-century church of St John the Baptist obeyed instructions to wear white. The three other Spice Girls arrived separately and were mobbed by the crowds.

Ms Brown, who is three months pregnant, was married by a female vicar, the Rev Sue Irwin. The three-tier wedding cake had nude figurines of the bride and bridegroom on the top.

Gerri Halliwell, formerly known as Ginger Spice, who left the band earlier this year, is understood to have declined an invitation to attend.

Review, page 21
Leading article, page 23



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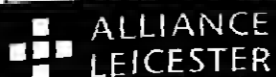
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Dogs' microchip ID could be compulsory

Animal welfare groups support the scheme, reports Roland Watson

BRITAIN'S 5.3 million dog owners would be forced to pay for their pets to be identified by microchip implant and logged on a national database under proposals expected to win ministerial support.

The compulsory registration scheme would aim to cut the bill for rounding up strays, housing them or putting them down, which costs taxpayers tens of millions of pounds each year.

The charge to the owners of the country's seven million dogs could be a one-off fee of about £30 for the animal's lifetime or an annual payment of about £5. Surplus funds would go to a national dog wardens' scheme to police the system and promote responsible dog ownership. Officials at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions have started discussing with the RSPCA and Kennel Club how such a scheme would work and are examining draft proposals drawn up by both groups. The RSPCA is

pushing for legislation in the next session of Parliament, which begins in November.

The principle of a national dog-registration scheme was backed by Labour in opposition, but the policy did not make it into the party's election manifesto. Ministers have waited for animal welfare groups to come forward with plans before taking up the issue. A spokeswoman for the Department said the idea of registration "underpins" government thinking and that proposals would be given "full consideration" by Alan Meale, the junior environment minister responsible. Although it is

unlikely the Government would take up a valuable slot in its crowded legislative programme to draw up a bill itself, it is believed ministers would support a Private Member's Bill on the issue.

Although recent surveys by the RSPCA show support for the idea it is likely that registration would be opposed by some owners as a "dog tax". Final proposals would almost certainly need to include exemptions for pensioners and the blind, and possibly working dogs, for them to win approval. When a similar proposal was put before the Commons in 1990 it was

defeated by only three votes.

Animal welfare groups believe they can mount a powerful case for registration as a saving to the public purse and protector of animals. Up to 135,000 stray dogs are picked up each year, of which more than 20,000 are put down because their owners can not be traced. Latest figures show that strays cost local authorities — which by law have to house them initially — more than £16 million a year, and police forces a similar sum. There are substantial costs to the NHS from injuries caused by strays from road accidents to dog bites. Insurance claims, lost working days and a tax on livestock all add to the bill.

Supporters of the scheme say hundreds of people escape prosecution for cruelty each year because they cannot be matched with their animal, something which could be done immediately once its identification chip was read by a scanner.

PET FOOD PRICE INQUIRY DEMANDED

AN MP is to ask the Office of Fair Trading to investigate pet food prices. Arcty Kirkwood, Liberal Democrat MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, said he had been told that prices were so high that it could be cheaper to feed pets on smoked salmon. He was concerned that the elderly might be paying too much to feed their pets and had written to the OFT. No-one was available to comment from the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association.



The umpire "Dickie" Bird was hit by a ball during his final match yesterday. Out on top, page 37

Top Jewish school is first to fail Ofsted test

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE first Jewish school to fail an Ofsted inspection has been ordered to rethink a timetable that devotes more than half of each day to prayer and religious study.

Pardes House and Beis Yaakov primary schools, in Barnet, North London, merged in 1996 to meet the requirements of the state system. But a forthcoming Ofsted report says the narrow curriculum and high proportion of unsatisfactory teaching produces unacceptable standards of general education.

The ultra-Orthodox school continues to operate on the original sites for boys and girls, several miles apart, adhering to Torah values. The inspection report says governors and senior staff have been "slow in coming to terms with the responsibilities and demands associated with voluntary aided status".

The Ofsted team, who carried out their inspection in June, said: "The small proportion of curriculum time allocated to the teaching of subjects in the secular curriculum has a significant impact on standards."

Jewish schools were the first non-Christian religious foundations to be admitted into the state system. Their success paved the way for the Government's decision earlier this year to approve the first Muslim state schools.

The majority of the 678 pupils at Pardes House and Beis Yaakov, according to the report, "are not exposed to the media or read secular literature". Larry Rosenberg, Director of Communications for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "I am certain that schools such as Pardes House, which serves a very Orthodox sector of the community, will have to work hard to adapt to the state system. The trust has always stressed the religious element of education, but that does not mean that the rest of the curriculum cannot grow stronger. It is more than possible to approach the whole curriculum Jewishly without compromising standards."

The Board of Deputies has carried out its own inspection of the school, which Mr Rosenberg said was also critical. The school could not be contacted for comment.

Government sources denied reports yesterday that ministers had decided to reappoint Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, and award him a 40 per cent pay rise. A spokesman for David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said no decision had been made on the renewal of Mr Woodhead's contract, which has almost a year to run.

Twin sisters killed while riding bikes

Twin sisters were killed by a car as they cycled along an unlit road at night without lights on their bikes.

Jodie Scrivens, 12, and her sister Jayne were found by their father, Raymond, who was searching for them after they failed to return home on time from a friend's house on Friday night.

Jodie died at the scene and Jayne died later in hospital after the accident a mile from their home in Bushbury, Walsingham, West Midlands. The driver of the car has not been charged.

Safety first

A council appointed a bus supervisor to make sure that children's seatbelts were fastened as they travelled to Barrington primary school in Shepreth, then sent buses without belts. Cambridgeshire County Council said the supervisors had other duties.

Murder charge

A man aged 19 has been charged with the murder of Keith Weller, 58, who was found dead at his home in Bridport, Dorset, on Thursday. The man, from Chelmsford, Essex, is due to appear before magistrates at Weymouth, Dorset, today.

Search called off

The search for a missing fisherman off the northeast coast has been called off. Jim Maidens, 51, of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Redcar, had been fishing with a colleague in a 20ft open boat about 50 yards out to sea when the boat capsized.

£11bn illness bill

Sickness and other forms of absence cost firms £11 billion last year, with public sector workers taking the most time off, a survey for the Confederation of British Industry found. An estimated 197 million working days were lost through absence in 1997.

Vicar rejected

A woman vicar has lost her job after villagers complained that she was separated from her husband. The Rev Sheila Stevenson was about to be installed as vicar of five villages near Cambridge when objections were raised by Croxton parochial church council.

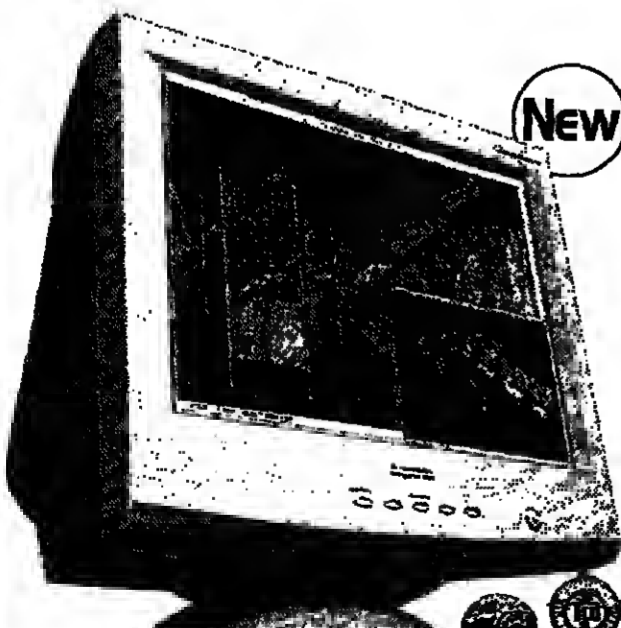
Sandbar rescue

Lifeboatmen rescued five young men who were stranded by the rising tide after driving a car on to a sandbank near Porthmadog in North Wales. A tractor was unable to reach the car, which was eventually covered by the sea and marked with a buoy.

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سكزا من الاصل

Scholars find fresh clues to origin of writing

THE earliest writing system was developed in ancient Egypt not Mesopotamia, as scholars have traditionally asserted, according to new research.

Vivian Davies, a leading scholar and keeper of Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum, said that what we would regard as full writing — a script enabling authors to express complex ideas — first appeared in Egypt.

It was thought that the earliest writing system was invented by the Sumerians in Mesopotamia towards the end of the fourth millennium BC and that the idea was borrowed by the Egyptians at the beginning of the First Dynasty, around 3100BC. However, recent discoveries at Abydos have shown that the Egyptians had an advanced system of writing even earlier than the Mesopotamians, some 150 years before, between 3000BC and 3350BC.

He added: "We are not trying to be competitive with our Mesopotamian colleagues. But there is very early evidence from Egypt that developed writing originated there."

The findings emerged from a discovery made by a German expedition, headed by Günter Dreyer, of the German Archaeological Institute, which revealed a dynasty of kings before the First Dynasty. Traditionally, the history of what is one of the world's greatest civilisations has been divided into 30 dynasties. But a new dynasty, which reigned in about 3250BC, and which has been named Dynasty 0,

Dalya Alberge on a claim that Egypt, not Mesopotamia, developed the first system

has been found at Abydos. Archaeologists have discovered hieroglyphics there dating from 150 years before the First Dynasty.

Among them are 150 labels in ivory or bone which are thought to have been attached to bolts of linen. Carved into their surfaces are hieroglyphic signs that spell out phonetically the names of places from which goods such as wine jars originated. Mr Davies singled out one label in which a lightning bolt spells out the word for "grit", meaning darkness, and a snake denotes the letter "dj", which, with the mountain sign, writes "djw", the word for mountain.

Egyptian hieroglyphic writing, which Mr Davies says is "one of the world's most beautiful scripts", consists of hundreds of different pictures of natural and man-made things. However, the script is not simply a primitive picture writing, but a sophisticated system capable of communicating complex information. The Egyptians had different types of signs: some stand for complete words, usually the object they represent, but most

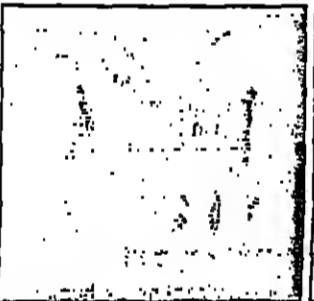
signify sounds or combinations of sounds, like the characters of our alphabet. For example, the reed leaf stands for the sound "r", the mat for the sound "p". Together these signs phonetically spell "irp", the word for wine.

In Mesopotamia the earliest forms of writing are an accounting system, simple lists of commodities and numerals, which took several hundred years to develop into a fully phonetic writing system. In Egypt, there is no such forerunner — the script appears in a fully developed form. From the beginning, it incorporated signs for sounds.

Mr Davies added: "A parallel for such a process is known from more recent times. In AD1444 the Korean script, still regarded as one of the world's most efficient, was invented by order of the king. In Egypt, this invention corresponds with the birth of the Egyptian state and its growing administrative and bureaucratic needs. Some of the earlier uses of this writing system were to record the receipt of tax, and denote the origin of commodities and their production date. It was not until much later that surviving works of literature and historical records were composed, but the capacity to create such texts was already in place at this early time."

The theory is explored in *Egypt*, a book to be published on September 14 by the British Museum Press, and a five-part television series to be shown in the new year. The book is co-written by Renée Friedman, director of an American expedition to Hierakonpolis, the site of Egypt's first capital.

Commenting on the findings, Christopher Walker, a scholar of Mesopotamian antiquities at the British Museum, said: "We have no reason to quarrel over this. But we may in the end leap-frog each other. If they think they have evidence of a fully developed script at that point, we would start looking for earlier stages. You don't just jump into a fully developed system."



On the left, the lightning bolt spells "grh", or darkness. On the right, the snake is "dj", which with the mountain sign writes "djw", for mountain



The 1931 Rolls-Royce custom-built for Lord Mountbatten has a rear seat that transforms into a mattress at the tug of a discreet handle

Rolls-Royce that goes like a dream

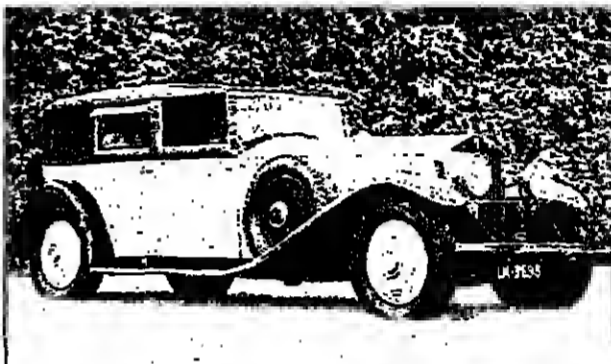
By ALAN HAMILTON

FORGET about air-conditioning, turbochargers, electric windows and CD players. There is no car accessory quite like a bed.

Car restorers in Scotland have been titivating a 1931 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Sedan de Ville that was custom-built for Earl Mountbatten of Burma. It is the first they have seen where, at the gentle tug of a discreet handle, the rear seat transforms itself into a mattress capable of accommodating the earl's 6ft 2in frame.

Rumour suggests that Mountbatten had the car designed for purposes which might now be described as Clistonesque. Nine years into his marriage to Edwina, Mountbatten enjoyed the attentions of a group of mature women, including Yola Letellier, the wife of a French publishing tycoon. They were drawn to him by his good looks, royal connections, his wife's money — and perhaps even his car.

Mountbatten, uncle of the Duke of Edinburgh and mentor to the Prince of Wales, was pursued by much



Mountbatten, the Phantom II Sedan de Ville and Madame Letellier, who may have been attracted to both

rumour concerning the nature of his sexuality, including suggestions of homosexuality and a preference for peeping through keyholes at his wife's dalliances with Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. One unsubstantiated story is that the car, which cost £2,800 — including its customised coachwork — was a peace offering from Lady Mountbatten after he discovered her habitual infidelities.

The bed may, of course, have been used purely for rest on long journeys. Douglas Fairbanks Jr once said of Mountbatten: "Dickie

loved to look at the menu, but rarely ate the main course." Mountbatten sold the car in 1946. It rotted on a farm until bought in 1967 by its present owner, Ron Duguid, a Lincolnshire farmer, for £140. Mr Duguid restored it, showed it at rallies and occasionally lent it for weddings. It still bears its original number plate LM 3698, representing its original owner's initials and his Mayfair telephone number.

The car contains several other peculiarities which are unlikely to be seen on any future model. The dashboard is unusually high, to com-

pensate for Mountbatten's considerable height. The front bumper is detachable, to save space when the car was loaded on ships. Strangest of all, the car's headlights swivel with the steering, supposedly enabling the driver to see round corners. It is the sort of gadget that might appear in an April Fool's day advertisement.

Charlie Palmer, of Classic Restorations at Alyth, Perthshire, who has brought the car back to mint condition, said: "I have never seen a car like this before, and certainly not one with a bed in the back. The bed still works, but

the headlights have been disconnected as they are deemed to be dangerous." Mountbatten was a hair-raising driver. In 1924 he drove another Rolls from Park Lane to Portsmouth Barracks in an hour and 32 minutes, long before the days of motorways or even of brakes on all four wheels. After 50 years' motoring he still enjoyed a full no-claims bonus on his insurance.

Estimates of the car's worth vary from £75,000 to £100,000. In 1985 Mr Duguid entered it in an auction at Sothebys but it failed to reach its £75,000 reserve price.

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سوانح العرب

How MI5 mistook spinsters for spies

Records reveal that wartime intelligence suspected 100 Britons of aiding the enemy, reports Valerie Elliott

MORE than 100 Britons were suspected as traitors during the Second World War, according to an intelligence dossier just released. The file marked "British renegades" at the Public Record Office in Kew, south-west London, includes William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw-Haw, who was hanged for his Nazi propaganda broadcasts to Britain from Germany, and Norman Bailie-Stewart, the last traitor to be imprisoned at the Tower of London, who passed secrets to the Germans.

But mystery surrounds the activities and fates of many of those branded as traitors and sought by intelligence during

the war. The document, *Nominal Roll of Renegade British Subjects*, suggests that the extent of British collaboration with the Nazis was more widespread than had been realised.

The file reveals that MI5 were wrong about some people. A few at least were able to clear their names and were later declared "no risk to security". Even most of those on the list were said not to be "out-and-out collaborationists" but those about whom there was "some suspicion to think they have collaborated with the enemy".

Among these were celebrated English women, mostly spinsters, who settled in Tus-

cany and were devoted to Mussolini. Nicknamed the Scorpions because of their biting wit, their lives in northern Italy are the subject of a Franco Zeffirelli film, *Tea with Mussolini*, starring Judy Dench, Maggie Smith and Joan Plowright, to be released next year.

There were also well-bred young ladies such as Rosamond P. Shepherd, from Boars Hill, Oxford, who acted as a friend and chaperon to the daughters of Countess Dal Pozzo. Although Miss Shepherd is named as a renegade in the MI5 list, her own account of months on the run from the Germans and how she eventually worked for the

Allies as an interpreter provides an insight into how the security services sometimes got it wrong.

In June 1940 she wrote to the Royal Prefecture in Florence: "I am a fascist and also a great admirer of Italy and Italians... Now, in case of war between Italy and England, I don't know to whom I must turn to ask what would happen to an independent English person here in Italy?"

At first MI5 reported that she was "openly anti-British", but by April 1945 had marked her file: "She professes pro-Fascist sympathies but is harmless."

Her personal account, handwritten in blue ink, ex-

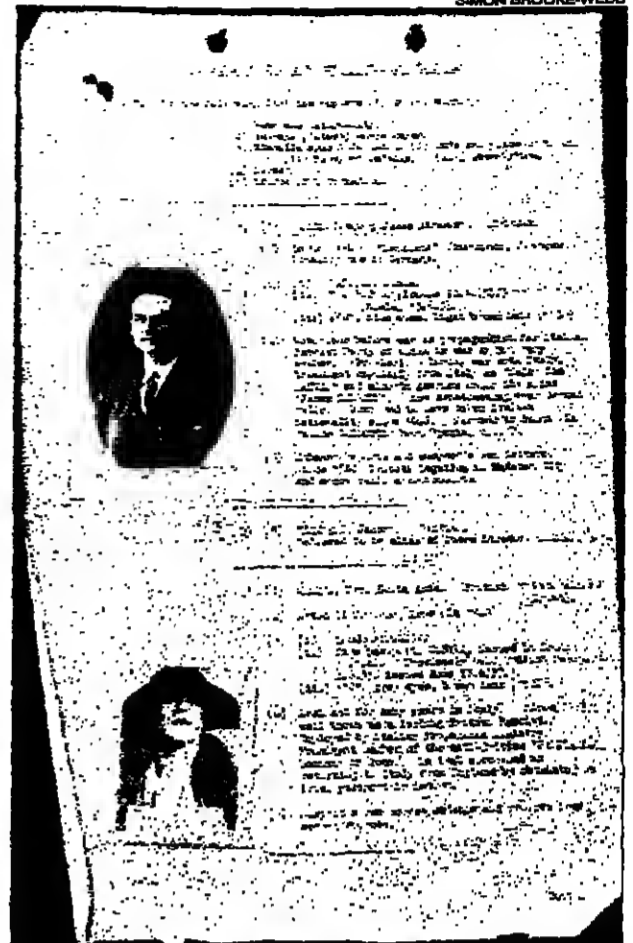
plains that ill-health prevented her from returning to Britain at the start of the war. She was interned in Cortona but in September 1942 was allowed to reside with the Dal Pozzo family at their country house in Treviso. The following year, to escape the Germans, she fled to northern Italy and then back to Cortona, where she was required to report daily to the police.

She wrote: "On June 12th, 1944, on going to sign the register, I was warned by the Maresciallo [Marshall] to take to the hills to save my life, as the Germans were rounding up all the internees, foreigners and Jews, shooting some, and taking the rest to

prison camps in Germany. From June 18 until July 3 [when the Allies arrived] I stayed hiding in the hills, being hunted by the Germans, sleeping in the woods and fields and narrowly escaping with my life."

MI5 lists of suspects were circulated to army bases in Europe. Top of one list was Major James Barnes, alias James Kennedy. MI5 noted he was "notorious before the war as a propagandist for the Italian Fascist Party, of whom he was an honorary member". He had broadcast regularly from Italy and America and may have taken Italian nationality in 1940. Although he had been living near Florence, MI5 believed he had moved to Germany with his Italian-born wife.

Another suspect was Edith Waring, born in London in 1897. An intelligence report read: "Resident many years in Italy. Since 1933, leading British fascist. Employed by Italian Propaganda Ministry." The Public Record Office has been granted £2.6 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund to help to put on microfilm 33,000 boxes of First World War servicemen's records damaged by fire and water in 1940.



Suspected traitors: Major Barnes and Mrs Waring

...the Germans were rounding up all the internees, foreigners and Jews, shooting some, and taking the rest to prison camps in Germany.

From June 18th until July 3rd I stayed hiding in the hills, being hunted by the Germans, sleeping in the woods and fields and narrowly escaping with my life.

With the Allies arrived on July 3rd in Cortona I was asked by the town Mayor to help him with some

Finally - I have never at any time engaged in any kind of politics or any party whatsoever and I am surprised and perturbed that I am a British Subject, educated in England, should be subject to such annoyance when I know that I have never done anything to deserve it.

Rosamond P. Shepherd

Florence 15th March 1945

Extracts from Rosamond Shepherd's diary protesting her loyalty. She had been working in Italy as a chaperon when war broke out

Royal soldier who had no stomach for active service

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

THE first Marquess of Cambridge, brother-in-law to George V, was known in his lifetime as a soldier-prince, but papers disclosed by the Public Record Office throw doubt on a glorious military career.

The former Prince Adolphus of Teck, who was a personal aide-de-camp to the King and a godson of Queen Victoria, appeared to spend

doctors and military medical staff subjected him to various examinations and he was considered unfit for service.

In February 1915 he went to the south of France to recuperate. His doctor then advised that he could take up a desk job and he became an assistant military secretary at the War Office. But he continued to suffer abdominal pains and mystify the medical boards.

In June 1916 he was made military secretary to the Commander-in-Chief at the General Army HQ in France, with the rank of brigadier-general. But within weeks an official report read: "Up to a fortnight ago he was able to perform his duties as Military Secretary, though never very well owing to frequently recurring attacks of pain."

An obituary in *The Times* told a different version: "His desire for more active service was gratified by his appointment as Military Secretary... It was indeed a common matter of remark that he preferred the hard work of the regiment to any of those less arduous staff appointments."

But by the autumn of 1916 he had taken so much sick leave that he was put on half-pay during further absences. At 51, he retired and asked to commute his pension to a lump sum, writing: "I am in rather a fix as I looked to the £2,000 to help pay for a small place I have just bought. In fact I have had to borrow the money from the bank."

He was allowed to commute only a part of it. Sir Reginald Brade at the War Office, noted: "After all, the monarch would not allow him to starve and disgrace us by begging in the streets."

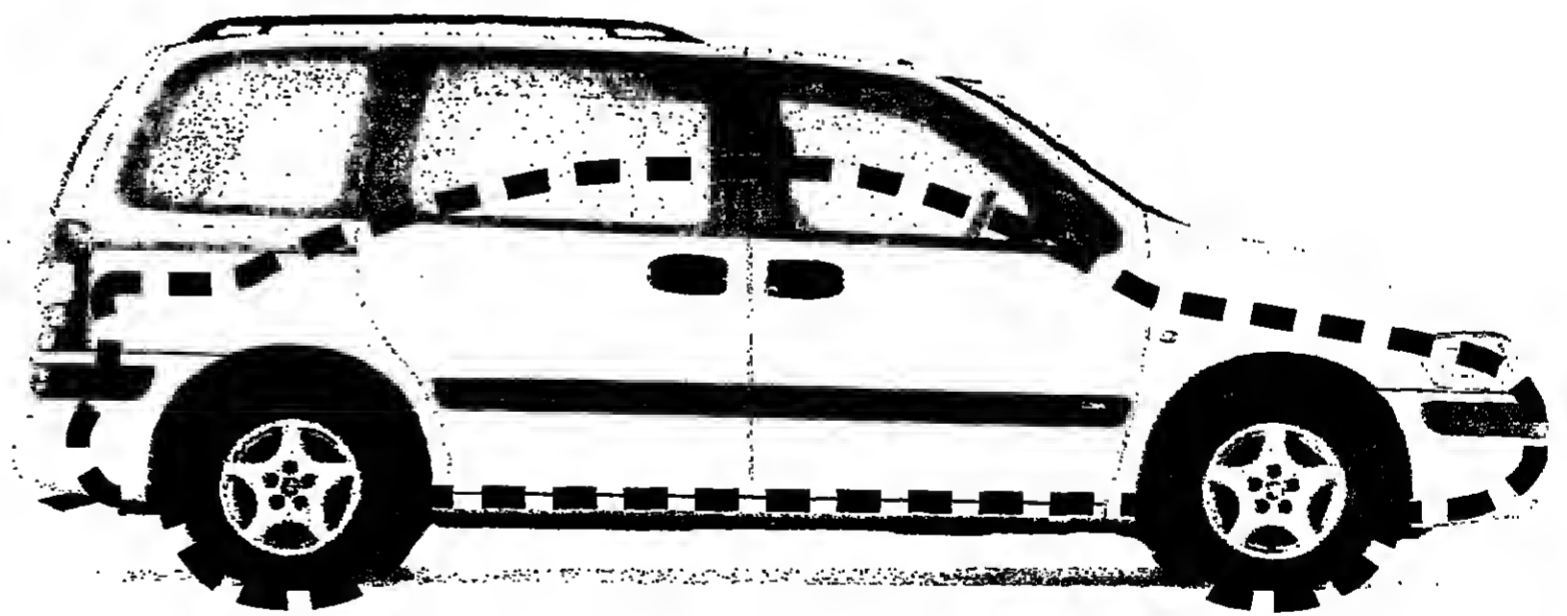


Lord Cambridge: had frequent attacks of pain

the First World War facing a series of Army medical boards to request sick leave.

His persistent bouts of illness conflict with the eulogies written about him after his death, which suggested he had "devoted himself to the steady and efficient performance of his military duties".

His ill-health appeared to begin in 1914 while he was on active service in Flanders as a lieutenant-colonel with the 1st Life Guards. He "was seized with vomiting and pain and had to return home." For nearly two years his own



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New rural rail stations face inquiry after local protests

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PIONEERING moves to build a string of rural railway stations to relieve traffic congestion on motorways and in town centres have been put on hold by John Prescott.

Train companies want to build "parkway" stations, some with parking for 1,500 cars, to cope with rising numbers of passengers commuting from country areas. The parkways would be built close to motorway junctions, possibly in green belt areas, to encourage motorists to use the train for long journeys.

But Mr Prescott, the Secretary of State for Transport, is worried about the environmental effects of the new wave of stations. He has called a public inquiry into one of the first plans, creating a new station close to a Warwickshire village.

Proposals for a station close to Hampton Magna, near Warwick, have been widely supported but have drawn fierce opposition from several hundred residents who fear that village life will be ruined

by a huge rise in local traffic. The plan has pitted neighbour against neighbour and Warwickshire County Council, which has proposed the scheme, against Warwick District Council.

The inquiry, to be held next month, is seen as a crucial test of the Government's commitment to expanding public transport, even in the face of opposition from the rural community. Further plans include

a new station in the Oxfordshire village of Aston Rowant, in the shadow of the Chiltern hills and close to the M40.

Another proposal, to build a parkway station on green belt land close to the M25 in Hertfordshire, is expected to be the most hotly contested scheme, and protesters will be looking closely at the public inquiry decision before deciding whether to go ahead with the scheme. Other sites that

are being considered for parkway stations are outside Edinburgh, Doncaster, at junction 24 on the M1 in the East Midlands, and Marks Tey, near Colchester in Essex. A parkway station is also planned at Luton airport, close to the M1.

Mr Prescott is understood to be disturbed by suggestions from his environment officials that such plans, which could generate additional car traffic

in rural areas, will prompt a flurry of similar schemes in green belt areas. He believes that the issues should be aired at a public inquiry.

The Hampton Magna plan, which would include parking for 450 cars, is expected to be a test case and senior railway figures believe that Mr Prescott will use the scheme to draw up ground rules for future schemes.

Chiltern Railways is behind the plan, which follows 30 per cent increases in the number of passengers on its services from Birmingham to London. Alex Turner, Chiltern's marketing director, said: "This really is a huge benefit to the area and we simply want to get on with it."

Robert Butler, a parish councillor leading the campaign against the station, said: "There simply isn't the demand locally and they can only make it work by creating demand from other areas such as Redditch and Bromsgrove. It will create dreadful traffic problems on country roads."

COMPLAINTS CONTINUE TO RISE

The number of complaints from passengers about the services provided by the privatised rail operators is continuing to rise as their performance drops, according to figures published yesterday (Richard Ford writes).

Complaints to the key national passenger watchdog organisation rose by 82 per cent for the three months to June this year compared with the same period last year. The number of complaints

is now so high that the regional rail users' committees fear they will be unable to cope. "We are reaching the point where we are in serious danger of letting passengers down ourselves," David Bertram, chairman of the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, said.

The major criticism against the privatised rail firms was over the punctuality of the services, while the number of complaints about the accuracy of the telephone enquiry service rose by 152 per cent.

Punctuality worsened on 48 of the 64 routes run by the 25 train operating companies in the 12 months to the end of June this year and 25 routes failed to meet punctuality targets for the same period.

Richard Branson's Virgin West Coast main line service was bottom of the punctuality table after running only 71.3 per cent of trains on time against a target of 90 per cent.



Joe Long with 18-month-old Holly Lang, rescued from her smoke-filled home

Boy, 11, saves toddler from burning house

By A CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLBOY was hailed as a hero yesterday for rescuing a baby girl from a burning house.

Joe Long, 11, calmly crawled along a plastic roof to climb through an upstairs window at a neighbour's house to rescue 18-month-old Holly Lang after her distressed mother had locked herself out of the smoke-filled house.

He searched each room before finding Holly downstairs sucking her thumb as she watched television. Joe reassured her before picking her up and walking out of the burning house. Firemen and paramedics praised his bravery.

Joe said: "The only thing on my mind was getting the baby out."

He heard Holly's mother, Claire, cry for help after she locked herself out of the house in Torquay, Devon, as her chip pan caught fire.

She tried to break a toughened glass window with a shovel but could not get into the house, which has security locks on the main doors.

Joe climbed over a wall and ran to get help after Claire told him what had happened. He knocked on a neighbour's door and told them to call the

fire brigade before running up the road to ask a garage boss, Pete Sherwood, to lift him onto the plastic roof so he could get in to the house through an open upstairs window.

Joe said: "I was aware that the plastic corrugated roof would not take my weight. So instead of standing on it I crawled along it to get to the window. There was quite a bit of smoke about. I wasn't scared for me even though I could have fallen through."

"I found the baby and introduced myself so that she would not be scared."

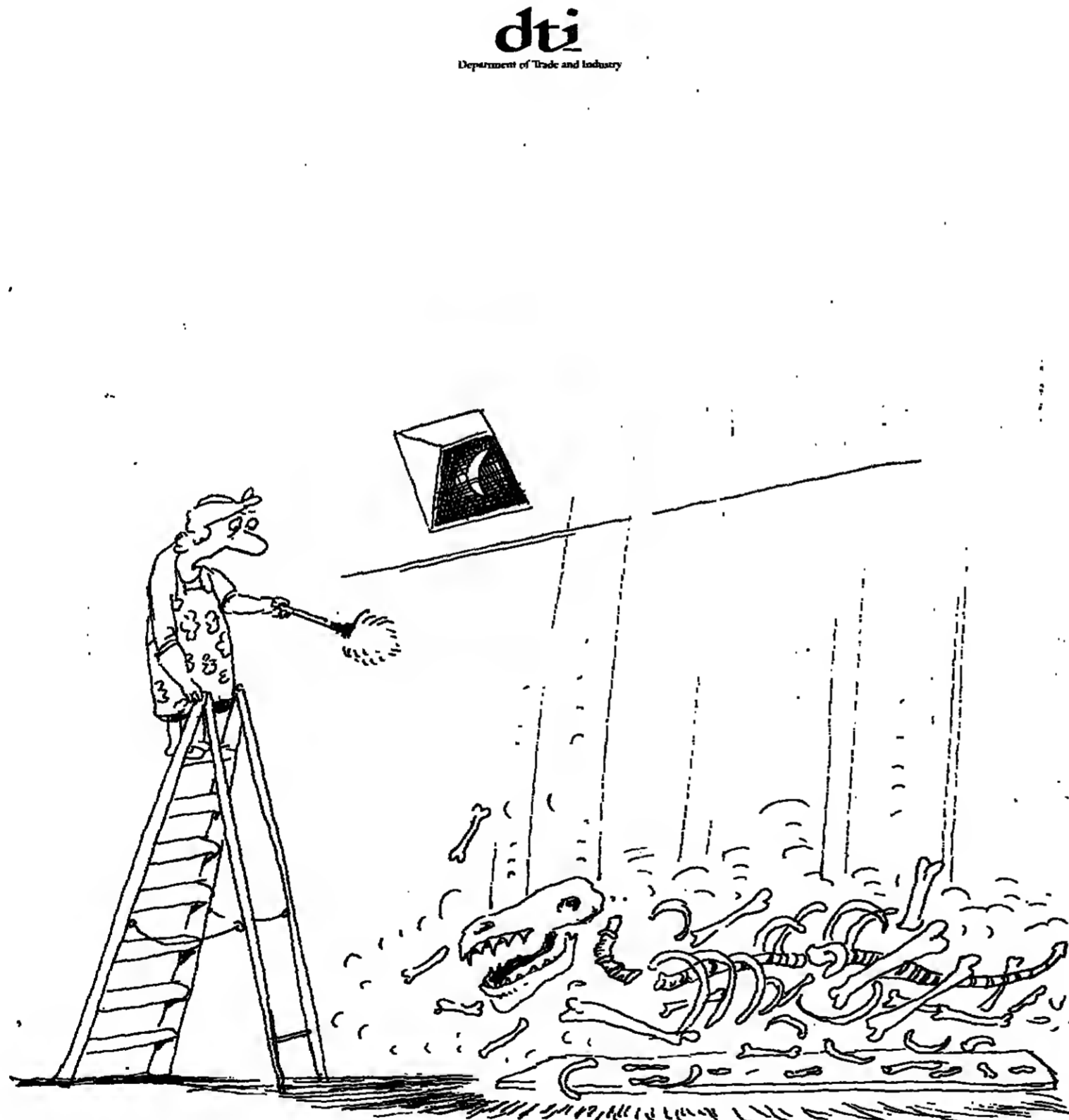
Joe said when he is older he would like to be a fireman or a policeman.

John Davis, a local councillor, said: "He is definitely a little hero. I think he should get a medal."

Claire, a mother of two, was yesterday safely back in her home with Holly who needed some oxygen after breathing in smoke.

Two years ago Joe came face-to-face with an intruder wearing a ski mask who snatched his mother's handbag from their house.

Joe screamed loudly and police were called. They arrested the burglar.



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Rioters force Tirana leader to flee

The murder of an opposition leader has thrown Albania into turmoil once again, writes Tom Walker

CROWDS, angry at the assassination of an opposition leader, stormed Albania's main government building yesterday, setting it alight and forcing Fatos Nano, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet to flee through a back exit.

Rioters seeking vengeance took to the streets of Tirana, the capital, after gunmen killed Azem Hajdari, a close political associate and friend of Sali Berisha, the former President. One protester was killed and four guards were wounded while defending Mr Nano's office, the police said.

The crackle of gunfire and explosions from burning government cars echoed through the streets of this unstable former Communist capital. Elsewhere, witnesses said, armed crowds of opposition supporters blockaded the main road near Kavaja, about 18 miles southwest of Tirana.

Dr Berisha warned Mr Nano, his socialist rival, to resign within 24 hours or face a popular uprising against his Government. Whether the unrest develops into a revolution depends on how much support Dr Berisha can muster.

Tirana's central Martyrs' Boulevard and surrounding streets were largely deserted and calm yesterday afternoon. But Dr Berisha's loyalists were planning an all-night vigil for Mr Hajdari, to be followed by a funeral today. Dr Berisha said he hoped that at least 100,000 mourners would come. Contacted by telephone, he said: "For the good of the nation I ask him to resign. I

cannot guarantee security and if he does not step down, there will be dramatic events."

His voice choked as he referred to Mr Hajdari as "a symbol to everyone and an independent man".

Many of Dr Berisha's Democratic Party faithful were equally shocked by Mr Hajdari's bloody end on Saturday night, when he and one of his bodyguards were shot a few yards from party headquarters. "Kill, kill, kill Fatos Nano," they shouted in the streets yesterday.

Mr Nano's response — a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the killers — was not enough and his Cabinet meeting soon faced the wrath of the mob.

Cars were smashed and set alight, then the ground floor offices of the government building were ransacked and put to the torch. Amid the pandemonium of gunfire, exploding petrol tanks and dense black smoke, Mr Nano and his colleagues hurried away through a fire escape. Order was restored only after special police had fired volleys of shots into the air.

Dr Berisha blamed the assassination on Mr Nano. "It is known who did it. We have witnesses, we know everything about it." The killers, he said, were a police clique promoted to the top ranks of the security services by the Prime Minister.

There is little love lost between the two politicians, who have dominated Albanian politics since the death of



Cars burn yesterday outside Tirana's government building. People protesting against an opposition leader's murder also set the building alight

Enver Hoxha and the collapse of his Marxist-Leninist state a decade ago. Dr Berisha accuses Mr Nano of having maintained his links with the communist past; Mr Nano says he was unjustly jailed by Dr Berisha after his first socialist Government fell in 1991, with help from Mr Hajdari, who was then a student

leader. Eleven months ago Mr Hajdari was shot by a socialist deputy in the national parliament and shortly afterwards a motorcade in which he was travelling was hit by more than 150 bullets. He and Dr Berisha came from the same northern town, Tropoje, which is now a conduit for men and arms to the Kosovo Liberation

Army fighting for independence from Serbia. Dr Berisha denied that there was any link between the unrest spreading through Albania and the war in Kosovo. "This country needs a political solution," he said. "We no longer need Mr Nano, who is just a manipulator."

Diplomats watched events

with resignation. "People here are too tired for another revolution," one European Union official said. "When Berisha talks of a crowd of 30,000, there is usually a crowd of 3,000. I don't think he has much support." He said Albania's main problem was, as ever, the rule of well-armed gangs.

Karadzic clique faces poll defeat

BOSNIANS voted at the weekend in their second general election since the 1995 Dayton Peace Accord (Tom Walker writes).

Unlike previous polls, there was little trouble, and diplomats hoped the new mood of acceptance might diminish the hold of nationalists, especially in Republika Srpska, where the clique surrounding Radovan Karadzic faces oblivion.

The main problem was a computer failure that affected many polling stations. Rain added to the chaos, but at least 35 per cent of the 2.5 million electorate had voted by Saturday evening, which left observers confident of a high turnout. First results are expected by Wednesday.

Serbs force Albanian refugees back to a shattered land

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN ISTINIC, KOSOVO

MORE than 50,000 ethnic Albanians abandoned their homes in Kosovo last week after a huge Serb offensive laid waste a swath of territory in the west of the province.

This latest internal exodus brings the number of those displaced to more than 400,000, nearly a quarter of Kosovo's population. Montenegro closed its borders to Kosovo on Saturday and yesterday deported about 3,000 refugees.

In June Mercy Corps International,

an independent American-based aid organisation working in Kosovo, listed 149,617 people as displaced. Three months after the US and its allies threatened President Milosevic of Yugoslavia with Nato airstrikes, this number has rocketed to 411,769, while the potential of foreign intervention has all but faded.

In the war's blackest week to date, Serb armoured columns rampaged through a triangle of rural land between the towns of Pec, Dakovica and Klinja destroying village after village.

Though there was little fighting,

the zone nevertheless presented a glimpse of the apocalypse. Dense smoke poured into the sky, minarets emerging like rare blooms. Columns of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and vehicle-mounted anti-aircraft guns swept out of the shattered ruins eastwards.

Behind them, scarcely a single Albanian remained. Dead dogs and livestock littered the fields; smashed cars and tractors lay overturned on the verges of empty roads; bandaged police looted and burnt whatever the shelling and shooting had left behind.

Kosovo Liberation Army resistance was isolated and ineffective, most of the separatist rebels preferring to abandon their weapons and run.

Early in the week, the Serbs had found their justification for this punitive excess just outside the village of Glodane. Here, in a muddy waste, lay the bodies of at least five murdered Serb civilians. By Sunday, the Serbs had found 19 more.

The people responsible for this crime may or may not have been among the terrified refugees who crowded into Istinic, just beyond

Decane. Some 50,000 people from more than 40 villages — sick, hungry and many wounded — had by last Thursday clustered in and around the village.

On Saturday the authorities decided to disperse the refugees back into the zone of destruction from which they had escaped. Armoured personnel carriers corralled the jumble of tractors and carts loaded with refugees while police with sticks gave added encouragement to anyone who missed the message from the bullhorns.

By nightfall, Istinic was empty.

Israel to keep Hamas dead 'for barter'

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

WITH the Palestinian territories already aflame after three days of violence, Israel yesterday took the provocative step of refusing to hand over the bodies of two Hamas leaders killed by soldiers.

The killings sparked widespread riots and demonstrations by Palestinians in the West Bank against Israeli troops, but Israeli military commanders said they would keep the corpses of brothers Ibad and Adel Awadallah as bargaining chips for future negotiations with Hamas.

The leaders of the militant Islamic group are already vowing to "drench Israel in blood" over the killings. Both brothers belonged to the military wing of Hamas and were on the most-wanted list of terrorists. They had been sought in connection with a series of suicide bombings in Jerusalem last year.

Brigadier-General Yitzhak Eitan, Commander of the Israeli defence forces in the West Bank, said: "Currently there is no intention of handing over the bodies and the issue is being dealt with at the highest levels." Another military commander, who did not wish to be named, said that he wanted to keep the bodies for future negotiations with Hamas. "We are talking about a bargaining chip of value," he said.

Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council have appealed for the return of the bodies and for their father to be allowed to identify his sons.

Israeli security forces were on high alert and announced that a closure of the territories would remain for at least another ten days, until the end of Jewish religious holidays.


□ Casino snub: Claudia Schiffer, the German supermodel, has cancelled plans to attend the opening tomorrow of the first casino under Palestinian rule. Organisers rejected reports that her decision was influenced by threats from militant Islamic groups opposed to the new casino, in the West Bank town of Jericho.

THE CHANGES BY LAW ABOUT GOING TO CREDIT


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Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia

Saudi prince to meet Blair

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE *de facto* ruler of Britain's most important Arab trading partner will begin two days of top-level talks in this country today. Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia, the half-brother of the ailing King Fahd, arrived in Britain yesterday at the start of a month-long tour of Europe, America and Asia, which will consolidate his position as the effective ruler of the world's largest oil producer.

Today he will have talks in Downing Street with Tony Blair that will focus on the threat to world economic stability, terrorism and the Middle East peace process and the important trade links between Britain and Saudi Arabia.

After his half-brother's stroke two years ago Prince Abdullah, 74, assumed the powers of regent, but King Fahd reclaimed the throne six months later. However, the King, who suffers from circulatory problems, increasingly has left the day-to-day government of Saudi Arabia to Prince Abdullah, who is First Deputy Prime Minister.

Kohl learns to love Bavarians

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

THE flagging fortunes of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, were yesterday given a boost from conservative Bavarian voters.

The ruling Christian Social Union (CSU) secured, on the basis of exit polls, a thumping absolute majority of 52 per cent in the regional elections. This will give heart to Herr Kohl's increasingly anxious supporters. The opposition Social Democrats fumbled and were lucky to keep their vote stable at around 30 per cent.

With two weeks to go before the general election, the Chancellor lags at least five percentage points behind the Social Democrats. He has been looking for the psychological turning point in the campaign, the moment when the nerve of the voters breaks and they decide they cannot stand the risk of life without Herr Kohl.

The Bavarian CSU is an ally not only of the Christian Democrats but also of Herr Kohl. The CSU does not think much of Wolfgang Schäuble, the Chancellor's crown prince. It fears anyone plotting a grand coalition with the Social Democrats because then the CSU could become superfluous. It fears most of all a crack-up of Christian Democracy, with Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union lurching leftwards and discarding its Bavarian sister. That is why Bavarians voted yesterday not only on local issues, the most important of which was the efficient management of the vigorous Bavarian laptop-and-Lederhosen economy, but also on the future of Germany.

Bavarians want Herr Kohl to stay until the terms of his succession have been decided. After yesterday's vote, three conservatives have become pivotal in the management of the post-Kohl era: Herr

Schäuble, Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, and Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian prime minister. They are the corners of the triangle of modern German conservatism: Herr Schäuble, a moderniser impatient with sluggish Rhineland capitalism; Herr Rühe, a north German Protestant pragmatist; and Herr Stoiber, a Euro-sceptical parochialist who speaks to the Catholic heartland.

Herr Kohl's position may well improve as a result of the Bavarian election. But Herr Stoiber's prospects of succeeding Herr Kohl as Chancellor, fulfilling Franz Joseph Strauss' frustrated dream of a Germany led from Bavaria, have also improved. Until Strauss's death, Herr Kohl

Greens urged to withdraw MEP

Bonn: Germany's Greens faced pressure yesterday to withdraw Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a former leftist radical, from his seat in the European Parliament. He has admitted that for years he channelled money to Hans-Joachim Klein, a left-wing terrorist suspect, who was arrested last week after 22 years on the run. (AP)

had to fend off the Bavarian challenge.

In an interview last week, Herr Kohl recalled what he said was the only time he broke the law. Herr Strauss had collected him from Munich airport and they were speeding down the autobahn when the vehicle ran out of petrol. Herr Strauss went off with a can in search of a petrol station. When he returned, he was on the other side of the autobahn. Herr Kohl ran illegally over the motorway to help the stout Bavarian over the crash barrier. The minor episode has a political point: the men were rivals, yet they helped and depended on each other.

Herr Kohl swept aside doubts about the Eurofighter, ensuring jobs in Bavarian industry. Despite Herr Stoiber's tactical scepticism about the euro, Bavaria, with companies such as BMW and Siemens, has most to gain from the new currency. So Herr Stoiber barely raises a squeak nowadays against the euro's introduction.

However, he does complain about Brussels interference in daily life. So does the pre-election Chancellor, Herr Stoiber and Herr Kohl want a European budget rebate. The German presidency of the European Union, which begins in January, will be steered by Munich.

In this sense Germany is already being run from Bavaria: Herr Kohl and Herr Stoiber, once at opposite ends of the European debate, now agree on almost everything. Herr Stoiber is a rare surviving specimen of that dying breed: a successful Christian Democratic leader with strong Christian values. And the Chancellor, in the final sprint to the general election, is learning to love the Bavarians.



A woman in traditional Bavarian dress casts her vote yesterday at Bayrischzell

Moscow 'will not abandon reform process'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA sought desperately to ease growing concerns at the weekend that the new Government of Yevgeni Primakov will abandon reforms and move closer to a Soviet-style command economy.

Relief last week that parliament and President Yeltsin had finally agreed on a compromise candidate for Prime Minister turned to fear yesterday that none of the young reformers who have helped to shape Russia's transformation to the free market will have Cabinet posts.

On Saturday, Mr Yeltsin assured President Clinton that Russia would remain on a reformist course, despite the fact that nearly all the newly-appointed ministers were retirement-age former Soviet officials. The Kremlin said the Russian leader had stressed the "lack of an alternative to market-orientated policies".

For his part, Mr Primakov tried to assure jittery investors in Russia, many of whom lost hundreds of millions of pounds when Moscow defaulted on its debts and devalued the rouble, that the country would pay off all its creditors. "Russia is not the kind of country that will declare itself bankrupt and it will never become this," he said at a meeting with media executives.

However, commentators have given a warning that Mr Primakov may not be able to find a compromise to Russia's serious economic problems. "The situation calls for an unambiguous choice of economic course," said the *Russky Telegraph* newspaper. "The payments crisis and collapse of the banking system, instability of the rouble, possible shortages of goods and regional separatism mean the Government must take quick decisions."

'Treasure map' leads police to Italian fraudster's hidden bullion

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

LICIO GELLI, the convicted fraudster and political eminence grise arrested in the South of France last week after fleeing from Italy, had hidden more than 300lb of gold

ingots in giant terracotta flower pots at his villa before absconding, Italian police said yesterday.

The gold bars, worth about £1 million, were buried in pots on the terrace of the villa near Arrezzo in Tuscany. Police had searched the property 35 times without finding

them, but French officers searching the Cannes apartment where Gelli had taken refuge found a "treasure map" showing their location.

Gelli, 79, was convicted of heading the illegal P2 masonic lodge, which in the postwar years operated as a parallel power. He escaped to Swit-

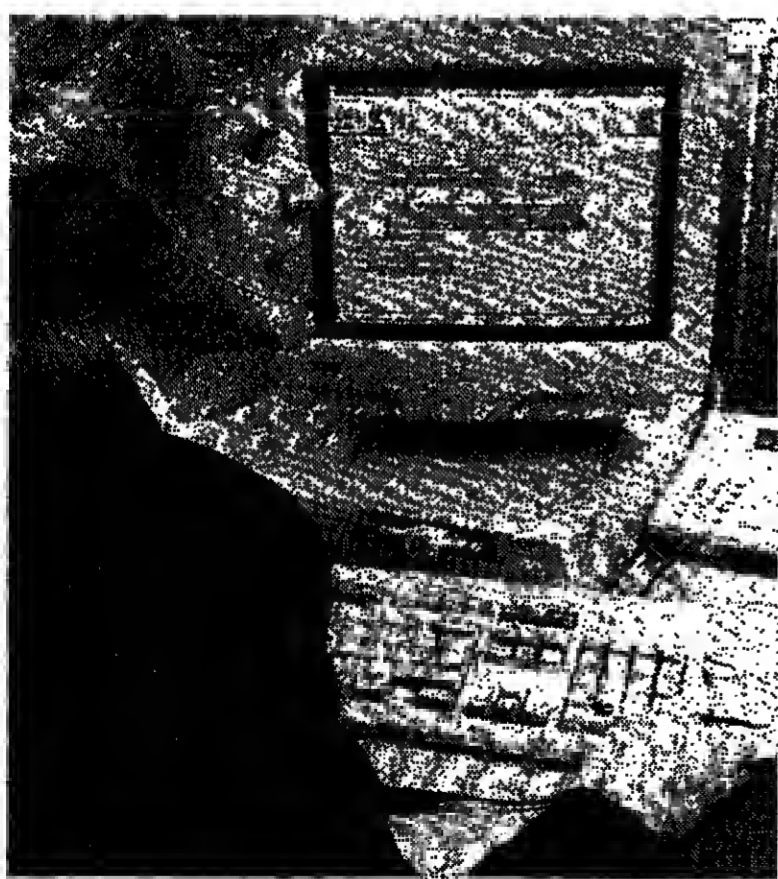
zerland after the collapse in 1981 of the debt-ridden Banco Ambrosiano, Italy's largest private bank, but was later extradited and sentenced to 12 years in jail for fraud, with a further three years for P2 membership. He vanished four months ago while on bail.

La Repubblica said the ingots may be stolen Yugoslav Treasury gold. **U Fugitive held:** Police announced the arrest of Giuseppe Mannolini, 61, one of the most wanted 'Ndrangheta bosses. Mannolini, who had been on the run for 11 years, has been convicted of kidnapping.

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THE TIMES M...
Taleb...
Mandela fail to ally firms' fears

سید محمد علی



Side of the 70,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards who remain at the border with Afghanistan. They are to be joined by a further 200,000 troops in the next few days

Taleban advance raises war fears

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA
FEARS of a military confrontation between Iran and Afghanistan grew last night after Taleban militia reported capturing Bamian, one of the last strongholds of Tehran-backed forces in Afghanistan. Iran which accused Taleban of war crimes, had earlier announced it was sending another 200,000 troops to its border with Afghanistan and declared its right to take "every appropriate action" to defend its territory.

Iran said its policy was defensive, but Brigadier-General Abdolali Pourshab, the commander of Iranian ground forces, said his troops would be ready to act against Taleban with "full power". Between 80,000 and 90,000 of the reinforcements had already taken up positions and the remainder were expected in the next few days, he said. They will join about 70,000 elite Revolutionary Guards, who were left at the border after recent exercises.

"What Taleban are committing now in Afghanistan are outright war crimes, and international bodies should not remain inactive and silent about this," said President Khatami of Iran. Tehran radio accused Pakistan of helping Taleban's siege of Bamian by sending its air force to bomb the city and its surroundings. Pakistan has repeatedly denied any involvement in the fighting.

Tehran at the weekend demanded that Taleban extradite those responsible for the deaths of nine Iranian diplomats. The Afghan militia admitted they were killed by its forces when it overran the opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif last month. The diplomats' bodies are due to be flown back to Iran today.

Tehran has also demanded the return of dozens more Iranian prisoners, but Taleban, which has so far refused to be intimidated by Tehran's muscle-flexing, insisted these would go home only as part of a prisoner exchange for hundreds of its fighters it said were being held in Iran.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Zimbabwe forced to reduce land seizure

Harare: The Zimbabwe Government, under pressure from Western countries, has agreed to slash its plans for a \$1.9 billion (£1.13 billion) land reform programme (Jan Raath writes). The move effectively repudiates President Mugabe's threats of a mass-seizure of white-owned farms.

Briton attacked in Turin

Rome: An English writer and translator is in a coma in a Turin hospital after being attacked in the street (Richard Owen writes). Malcolm Skey, 54, who came to Italy from West Coker near Yeovil in Somerset in 1971, was found early on Saturday lying on the ground in the Porta Palazzo area with his skull shattered. Police said he appeared to have been struck from behind with a blunt instrument, but there were no signs that he had been robbed.

Greeks visit Turkish Cyprus

Nicosia: More than 1,200 Greek Cypriots, some in wheelchairs, made a third emotional pilgrimage in 13 months to the remote Greek Orthodox Aposiolos Andreas Monastery in the Turkish Cypriot section of the divided island. Turkish Cypriot authorities said 1,274 people passed a United Nations-controlled checkpoint in Nicosia, the divided capital, without incident. The trip was one of a series of reciprocal goodwill gestures encouraged by the UN to improve relations on the island. (Reuters)

New software 'erases porn'

Bangkok: Software developed by a Thai activist group and a private company will erase child pornography from the Internet, the Foreign Ministry here said. A spokesman for the ministry, which is encouraging local Internet providers and users to install the program, said it worked like a virus scanner and was developed by End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism and an unnamed German firm. (AP)

Mandela fail to allay firms' fears

Johannesburg: President Mandela did little at the weekend to reassure companies fearing the effects of the brain drain of white emigrants taking the "chicken run" to escape South Africa (Sam Jay writes). "Real South Africans are being sorted out," he said.

Serial murder trial starts 13 years late

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES
AN ALLEGED serial killer who went to school in North Yorkshire and has been linked to at least a dozen gruesome deaths in northern California goes on trial today after an extraordinary 13-year delay.

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John Bayley and his wife, Iris Murdoch, 79: "Her power of concentration has gone, she cannot form coherent sentences. She does not know that she has written 27 novels; that she is a Dame of the British Empire"

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Stuart Norton, First Direct Customer since 1992

Alzheimer's sufferers are not always gentle: I know that. But Iris remains her old self in many ways.

The power of concentration has gone, along with the ability to form coherent sentences, and to remember where she is, or has been. She does not know that she has written 27 remarkable novels, as well as her books on philosophy, received honorary doctorates from the major universities, become a Dame of the British Empire. If an admirer or friend asks her to sign a copy of one of her novels, she looks at it with pleasure and surprise before laboriously writing her name and, if she can, theirs. "For Georgina Smith. For Dear Reggie..." It takes her some time, but the letters are still formed with care, and resemble, in a surreal way, her old handwriting. She is always anxious to oblige. And the old gentleness remains.

Pondered such matters while making Iris her drink. Important to make a routine of this. Around 12 o'clock or a little before. The drink itself slightly dishonest: a little drop of white wine, a dash of angostura bitters, orangeade, a good deal of water.

Iris likes it, and it has a soothing effect, making her sit watching television for longer periods. Otherwise she is apt to get up and stand with her back to the television, fiddling incessantly with her small objects, trinkets - twigs and pebbles, bits of dirt, scraps of silver foil, even dead worms rescued from the pavement on our short walks. She also pous water - sometimes her drink - on the potted plants by the window, which are now wilting under the treatment. But she never does this with a real drink, an alcoholic one. Sensible girl, her old fondness for bars still stands her in good stead.

THE TELETOBBIES. They are part of the morning ritual, as I try to make it. I have to insist a bit, as Alzheimer's now seems to have grown inimical to routines. Perhaps we all know by instinct that an adopted routine preserves sanity.

The Teletubbies is one of the few things that we can really watch together, in the same spirit. "There are the rabbits!" I say quite excitedly.

One of the charms of this extraordinary programme is the virtual reality landscape supplied. An area of sunlit grass natural - dotted with artificial flowers beside which the

real rabbits hop about. The sky looks authentic as well, just the right sort of blue with small white clouds. The Teletubbies have their underground house, neatly roofed with grass. A periscope sticks out of it. A real baby's face appears in the sky, at which I make a face myself, but Iris always returns its beaming smile. Iris looks happy, even concentrated.

Something about Teletubbies reminds me of going to see the Bluebellies in Wytham Wood. Since living in Oxford and finding out about this amenity, we have been to see them every year. Coming on them if the sun is shining has something of the beautiful dubiousness of Teletubby land. Can they be real? Do they really exist? They live in a thick and distant part of the wood, under dark conifers that stretch away downhill, and as

cape? What am I to do? Has nothing replaced the play of her mind when she was writing, cogitating, living in her mind? I find myself devoutly hoping not.

WHEN IRIS'S mother was taken to the mental hospital we did not tell her where she was going. I had doped her but the drive seemed interminable. As the nurse took her away she looked back at us with a lost, unapproachable look.

The same look on Iris's face when I manage to leave her for an hour with a friend.

Like school. Being left there. Probably such moments would not be so painful now if they hadn't started all those years ago at school, inside one's own ego.

I knew where I was going when I was taken to school. But being left there felt the

and never does now when I did so in the past: would soothe me by a peculiar sort of reassurance, implying that I was most lovable as close to her when I was big angry, silly or tiresome.

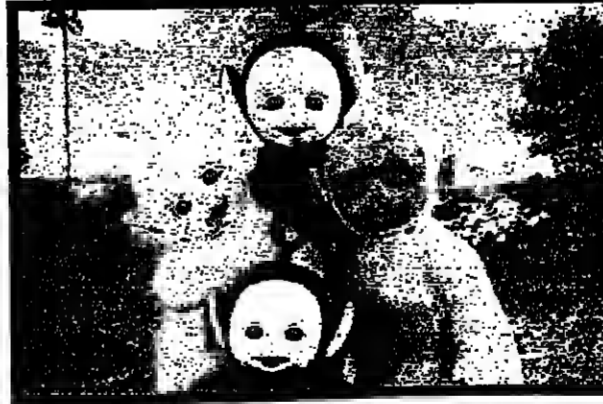
Now her face juncrumples into tears. I hasten comfort her, she always responds to comfort. We kiss and embrace much more than used to.

Often something that Iris says now, or a word she repeats, starts me, too, on some more or less distant train of association, remember when her mother with early Alzheimer's - undiagnosed or labelled then - used to repeat a word in a toying way, as if it were a talisman or portent. If somebody said "journey" or "Baron Court", where she lived, it would go on repeating it, intervals, and the same if the words happened to be "sham" or "ham and cheese". Once a mind attends to this involuntary habit, it becomes aware that the word "learning" has been popping up at intervals in my mind, and so play with it.

When young, it was already formidablely leered, but I'm sure it never shed. But does "learning" refer to some sort of overt display, like a bird's feathers, to how how important it still is, should be? It would be thought odd if Prime Minister Blair had proclaimed his new Government's policy to have been "learning, learning, learning" instead of "education, education, education". Despite its competitive nature, learning is ideally suited to itself, and no government particularly wants to encourage that, or to pay for it.

Moving from state to state. How many are there? How many will there be? Used to dread her moment waking, because the snoring seemed to strike her then full force, for a minute or two. Reassuring noises, so far possible, and then she would go back to sleep, and I would be beside her reading or tiling. The sound of it seemed reassure her. Iris's greed for sleep had something desperate about it, and yet she slept still sleeps, so easily and long in the morning that it is a great mutual comfort. Lying beside me she is like an elite who has passed on the path to a back-up member of a relay. I couldn't do what she'd done, but I was doing something.

THE AGONY of the now. Iris loved travelling and craves



"The Teletubbies are part of the morning ritual"

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IRIS: A MEMOIR

thinking: 'I want to escape'

It now more compulsively than ever, have always detested the business of leaving home, and was so thankful in the old days to drive her to the station and wave her goodbye. Now I have a fever of travel angst: taxis, tickets, train-omnes. Iris never worried about all that. She used to arrive at the station like a Russian peasant and wait for the first train to arrive.

The worst of both worlds. Although Iris is compulsively eager to be "going" — somewhere, anywhere — she is in as much of a flap in her own way as I am. At the station she keeps replying, "Why didn't you tell me we were going?" I had told her many times. Now I tell her again sharply, and with her own degree of querulous repetition. People look round at us. I am fumbling with my wallet, checking the tickets. They are hard to separate, and after shuffling them wildly again and again I can still find only one return ticket. I rush to the ticket office, where a queue unwinds in serpentine fashion between rope barriers. My ticket man has gone off. The customer at the other guiche seems to want a round-the-world ticket, and to be in no hurry about getting it. Iris clutches me anxiously, urging us to run to a train that has just come in, the wrong train I hope. At last the ticket man is free. I produce the receipt and delinquent tickets. He can do nothing: it wasn't his sale. I turn away in despair. Why can't we just go home?

Iris has not understood the problem and keeps urging me towards the wrong train. At that moment a man comes up to us and holds out a ticket. It is the original ticket man himself, strangely naked and unrecognisable now he's not behind the counter. He doesn't explain what happened but gives me a collusive smile and walks rapidly back to his place of work.

On the train I keep counting the tickets. The elderly couple opposite look sympathetically at Iris. I am clearly the one who's become a problem.

Exhausted and drenched in sweat. Vague heart sensations, too. And the whole thing so trivial. Alzheimer's obviously has me in its grip, and the ticket man, too. As well as Iris, and probably everyone else.

Does the carer involuntarily mimic the Alzheimer condition? I'm sure I do.

KIND FRIENDS up our street are giving a Sunday morning drinks party, offering a welcome distraction. I say nothing about it until 11. If I did, she would panic, demand why I hadn't told her sooner. She does not distinguish now between what she wants to do and what is happening.

"Are we going to London?" "No, just up the street. You'll know where when we get there. They're nice. You'll like it."

I know Iris is true, but it produces a "muser grimace" as I now call it in my mind. Every evening we have the battle of the trousers. She wants to go to bed in them, and everything else she is wearing, too. My resistance (this is half-hearted, compared with the determination she shows on the issue. Sometimes I win, more or less



Every year Bayley and Murdoch went to see the bluebells in Wytham Wood, near Oxford. But now Iris has "a great fear of trees"

dragging them off. Iris gives up the struggle, but produces a frightful grimace, an expression wholly new and different from anything her face ever did in the past. It unnerves me, and is becoming more frequent in other situations.

Not that I care about her trousers. Our habits have never been exactly hygienic, and yet distinguishing day from night seems vital to our saving routines. Twice in the day, at

ten in the morning and five in the evening, panic and emptiness descend, not because there is something we have to do but because there isn't. Routine has no suggestions to make. All I can do then is to promise the next thing soon. A drink. Lunch, or supper.

Iris's fear of other people if I'm not there is so pitious that I cannot bring myself to arrange for carers to "keep her company", or to take her to the

age-therapy unit. All that will have to come. Meanwhile, I am ruthless about getting her ready for the party, confident that she will enjoy it when she gets there, as they used to tell us in childhood.

She does. It is a nice party. I marvel, as I have often done before, at the way in which guests enjoy being guests. Standing opposite someone and keeping going, holding eye contact in the same practised precarious way that one holds glass and canapé. The extraordinary thing is that Iris can play her part just like the rest of us. Mustn't this be good therapy? I should like to think so, but exercise in that sense

would imply improvement, recovery. This happy distraction can be only for the moment.

I close cautiously on the guest talking to Iris. He is giving a tremendous impression of being good at his work, and happy at it. Half listening, I overhear a lively account of the way things are done in an insurance adjustment office.

Smiling, Iris listens closely — her attention must be flattering. Then I hear her say: "What do you do?" From the face opposite her it is evident that the question has been repeated several times in the past few minutes. Undiscouraged, he begins all over again.

Coming up to me the hostess says: "Isn't Iris wonderful?" She sounds surprised, perhaps thankful that there is no squeaking or gibbering going on. I am conscious of a base sense of annoyance, even exasperation. People who see Iris on such occasions assume there must be nothing much to worry about. Suppose I were to say to our hostess "You should see how things are at home". Thank goodness one cannot, or does not, say things like that at parties.

When we get home I try to keep Iris interested in the party, saying how much people had liked seeing her. In retrospect the party does seem to have been a happy time. I am already looking back on it with nostalgia. But it is not remembered. Iris begins to say anxiously "When do we go?" I wonder how many times she asked the insurance man what it was that he did.

THEY SAY people with a strong sense of identity are the worst Alzheimer's patients. They cannot share with others what they still formulate inside themselves. Does Iris speak, inside herself, of what is happening? How can I know? What is left is the terrible expectancy. "When?" and "I want..."

Is she still saying inside herself, like the blind man in Faulkner's novel, "When are they going to let me out?" Escape. The word hovers, though she never utters it.

Home is the worst place. As if something should happen here for her which never does. Anxiety pushing behind at every second. Picking up things, as if to ward it off. Holding them in her hands like words. Wild wish to shout in her ear: "It's worse for me — much worse!"

This after the television breaks down. It is I who miss it more obviously than Iris does, but in its absence she becomes increasingly restless. The recommended sedative seems not to help.

When are they going to let me out?

● Extracted from Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch by John Bayley, published by Duckworth at £16.95. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459. Copyright John Bayley 1998

WAYWARD ON THE BUS

A happy stay with my friend Audi in her little house in the middle of Lanzarote. Getting there is an ordeal, the charter flight packed to the doors with holidaymakers. Return a fortnight later, I have a heavy cold and feel unnaturally tired, although journey could not have been easier. On the bus for Oxford. Sink back thankfully. Nearly home. The few passengers are asleep. But we have no sooner started than Iris is jumping up and down in agitation. Where are we going? Where is the bus taking us? She rushes to the front and looks out anxiously ahead. I manage

of general distraction and uneasy eddies along the calm of the bus darkness. I can see faces alert and fixed resentfully. As we near Oxford I try to show things she might recognise, but the agitation gets worse.

Clumsy escape from the stares of the passengers. Open the door. Get inside the gate. The house feels deathly cold. I rush to the central heating switch. Then I come back and say in a cold, furious voice: "You behaved disgracefully. I felt ashamed of you."

She looks surprised, but then reassured, as if recalling an old cue. Leaving me to work out my nastiness as

if I were a child.

"Well," she says.

I've lost my

voice, my chest

hurts when I

cough. After a

few more ugly

words I tell her

I've probably

got pneumonia.

Hasn't she noticed I'm ill? She

looks uncompre-

hending again.

My appeal for

sympathy leaves

her lost and be-

wildered.

What will she do if I die?

If I'm ill and have to go to

hospital? What will she do

then? Still exasperated by

the bus business, I make

these demands with increas-

ing hostility and violence. I

am furious to see my words

are getting nowhere, and

yet also relieved by this, so

that I can continue to in-

dulge my fury. She knows

none of these things can or

will happen. While I am

still screaming she says,

quite coherently: "Let's go.

There now. Bed." We

squeeze together up the

stairs, huddle under the

cold duvet and clutch each

other into warmth. In the

morning I feel a lot better.

What will you do if I die? Or if I have to go to hospital?

TOMORROW

'I had a wish to rub my nose and lips along her bare arm.'
How John Bayley and Iris Murdoch fell in love

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Luxury camel tie-belt coat, £200, Next (0116-284 9424). Olive wide-leg trousers, £75, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-399 7200). Stretch ankle boots, £159, by Armando Pardini, 35 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 7066)

Luxury on a shoestring

If you have designer tastes but a tight budget, look no further than the high street, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry



Velvet bias-cut long dress, £130, by Principles (0990 233 343)

When Narciso Rodriguez covered Birkenstocks in cashmere for his last show, it was clear that luxury was taking on a new meaning in fashion. If these flat, functional Boston clogs were now the height of monied elegance, then the whole idea of *deluxe* was clearly being redefined.

Dresses of spun-gold thread and jewel-encrusted bodices are fine at the Oscars, but the new way to wear one's wealth is discreetly. Few will know if your cashmere sweater is 24-ply, or if your leather skirt is as soft as butter — but you will. Designers from Marc Jacobs to Nicole Farhi are wrapping their customers in clothes that are both practical and ultimately luxurious.

So what's a girl with designer tastes but a high street budget to do? Stay in the high street, where there are some more than passable imitations of the *luxe* look dominating the catwalks.

Cashmere, devoré, chenille, suede and leather are now common in mass-market stores, and the quality is getting better and better. Leathers and suedes have become softer, and it's no longer the case that Agnès b is the only acceptable source (though her leather jackets are still to die for).

As for cashmere, it's everywhere from M&S (this autumn's lilac fitted round-neck sweaters are star buys) to Benetton (look out for sage-green fitted V-necks), with Amanda Wakeley for Principles, Oasis, Jigsaw and even Richards getting in on the act.

More specifically, stores have paid close attention to particular designer styles. At Episode you can find soft sueded tights that certainly don't copy, but do echo, the Ralph Lauren look. Episode has also done chunky tie cardigans that grasp this season's "comfort blanket" aesthetic.

The Voyage look — jewel-coloured velvets and *haute hippie* cardies — has been ripped off by all and sundry. Some of the best examples of the velvet-trimmed cardigan appear at Patsy Seddon in soft shades of sage and claret.

Emulating the kind of unfussy fluidity of a Joseph or a Donna Karan takes a little more ingenuity. The basic elements are simple, elegant knits, fluid trousers and structured but understated jackets in leathers or suedes. Hobbs, which has always been good at producing reasonably priced luxury, is now coming back into its own. These fluid, stretch-silk trousers are a real find. Don't dismiss Warehouse for leathers — some are surprisingly good quality.

Other cunning buys this season include a mohair hooded top by Top Shop and a "cashmilion" cardigan by Dorothy Perkins (it's acrylic but feels like cashmere) used here to create the luxury "street" look of Marc Jacobs.

But perhaps the star buy is Next's super long, tie-belt coat, which looks as if it might have come from Max Mara.

Photographer: FIAN SULLIVAN
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair and make-up: Dirk Neuhoff at Michael/Johr Management
Model: Kare Orr at Select



Grey silk stretch trousers, £84.99, by Hobbs, 84 King's Road, SW3 (0171-586 5550). Glitter slash-neck top, £40, by Wallis (0181-910 1333). Black leather jacket, £200, by Warehouse (0171-278 3491)



Grey pleated skirt, £175, The Scotch House. Grey stretch hooded top, £92, Top Shop (0171-291 2706). Pink cashmilion cardigan, £22, Dorothy Perkins (0171-231 2804)



Natural suede maxi-skirt, £259, and caramel ribbed tie cardigan, £119, both by Episode, 172 Regent Street W1 and branches nationwide (0171-589 4279). Cranberry spiderknit tank-top, £145, by The Scotch House (0171-581 2151)

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Out

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Outing the gender benders

A major study is to investigate the effects of thousands of everyday chemicals on sexuality. Anjana Ahuja reports

Nobody expected to find freaks of nature in one of the most perfect wilderness areas on Earth. Yet a study of the polar bears that inhabit the Arctic islands of Edgeoya and Hopen turned up some disturbing findings recently. Four per cent of the animals in these icy Norwegian outposts were hermaphrodites. In other words, they had both male and female sex organs.

The figures were too high to be dismissed as chance — it would be like tossing a coin 20 times and getting a tail on each occasion. Scientists suspected that something in the environment was turning these graceful creatures into weird sexual hybrids. The secret lay in polar bear fat, where scientists found high levels of polychlorinated biphenyl chemicals (PCBs), which are used to clean Russian nuclear submarines and are banned in many countries. Because this compound can mimic hormones, it can disrupt normal sexual development.

A sinister trend that had previously been confined to fish, birds and reptiles had finally hit mammals.

The mountain of evidence against so-called "endocrine disruptors", nicknamed gender benders, which have also been implicated in declining human sperm counts, is about to prompt one of the biggest investigations undertaken so far into the chemicals that have become part of our daily lives. Next week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington will publish plans to test at least 15,000 chemicals used in almost every walk of life. All the main chemicals found in pesticides, plastics and detergents will be scrutinised. They include such everyday items as food packaging and washing powders. The long list of pollutants that creep into drinking water will be included, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons and effluent from chemical plants. The enormous project will be financed jointly by the American Government and the chemical industry.

"Evidence has been trickling out over the past few years that certain chemicals are capable of disrupting hormones," says Gary Timm, senior technical adviser at the EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. "It was compelling enough such as polar bears, so the chemicals were accumulating in body fat. One worrying possibility was that they could also be concentrated in a mother's milk and be passed on to children through breastfeeding.

An EPA advisory committee was swiftly pulled together from universities, environmental interest groups, the chemical industry and public health organisations. It is this committee that will announce the programme next week. The scientific centrepiece of the programme is a "really neat piece of technology", according to Mr Timm. It is a breast cancer cell that has been modified to include a gene from a firefly (cancer cells are harder to hook up to an androgen (male hormone) receptor, an estrogen (female hormone) receptor and a thyroid receptor. Mr Timm explains: "If the cell is exposed to a chemical that interferes with hormones, it will light up. You can use a photometer to record the light levels. We are sure the estrogen and androgen receptors will work, but we aren't sure about the thyroid one. That hasn't been done before."

If the cell flashes like a lightbulb, it will show that a chemical can make mischief at the cellular level. However, a light signal in a single cell does not necessarily mean that a substance will affect the animal's body as a whole. That makes it essential for chemicals to be investigated using more subtle means.

For this, scientists plan to use female rats just about to enter puberty. They will be exposed to the chemicals and their development will be monitored for 20 days. To avoid any effects being species-specific, fish will be tested in this way, too. This task is estimated to take two years.

Chemicals earmarked for further scrutiny will undergo a second tier of testing. Male and female rats will be exposed to each chemical and allowed to breed. Their offspring will then be bred. This will reveal the impact on fertility. Similar breeding studies will be conducted on birds, fish, amphibians and invertebrates. Results from the second tier are not expected until 2003.

"The risks are judged to be sufficient, laws banning certain chemicals could be in place by 2005. How will the industry react? Well, industry has bought into this, which made us pleasantly surprised," says Mr Timm.

"Their representatives were happy to be involved in this study, and are even funding some of it. They have made consensus recommendations and are willing to implement the findings.

"For this to work, they need to be co-operative partners. Hopefully the goodwill will continue, but we will have to wait and see."



A study showed that four per cent of polar bears on the Arctic islands of Edgeoya and Hopen had male and female sex organs

Industry has bought into this research'

Picture of hope after a stroke

A Pfizer's laboratories in Sandwich, where Viagra was discovered, neuroscientist Dr Ross Kinlock is using nature photography techniques to unravel processes in the brain after a stroke. Using time-lapse photography to follow a culture of brain cells over a day or so, he can see, speeded up, a mass of neurons switching off as damage spreads.

Dr Kinlock's experiments allow him to add to the cell culture different drug candidates to see if any inhibit the process. He claims to have found some that do. Other groups are working in the same direction. Dr Nancy Rothwell and colleagues at Manchester University have shown, working with rats, that the process involves a signalling molecule in the immune system called interleukin-1beta. When her team blocked the action of this molecule with a protein, it reduced brain damage in rats by 50 per cent.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

It demonstrates the new thinking about strokes. It was thought that when blood supply to the brain is cut off, the damage was immediate and unavoidable. But a more complex picture is emerging. The insult to the brain does damage, starving brain cells which die through necrosis, the process in which cell membranes are disrupted and spill their contents. But the damage goes on for hours, in a process called apoptosis, or cell suicide. The normal role of apoptosis is to shape the body's organs. In a stroke, there is evidence that the initial damage spreads more widely through the brain by apoptosis, for reasons not fully understood. If this process could be stopped, many stroke victims would have better prospects of reduced damage. Disability might

American teams have worked on inhibiting the action of enzymes called caspases, which appear to orchestrate apoptosis. A Harvard Medical School team reported that strokes in mice could be made less damaging — 40-50 per cent — if they were treated with caspase inhibitors.

Caspase inhibitors may be candidates for stroke drugs. And their use could go further. Newborn babies with poor blood flow can suffer brain damage, which may be the result of apoptosis. Dr David Holtzman, of Washington University, gave caspase inhibitors to newborn rats and found they inhibited apoptosis.

Hay-reared cows are safer

CATTLE fed on grain are more likely to transmit the food poisoning bacterium *E. coli* 0157, which caused a big outbreak in Scotland in 1996. Scientists at Cornell University have shown that the grain-based diets promote the growth of *E. coli*, and increase the proportion of the harmful variety. Cattle that are fed on hay do not show the same effect.

Reporting in *Science*, Dr Francisco Diez-Gonzalez and his colleagues say that cattle do not have enough of an enzyme which digests starch to process the grain-based diet fully. It means the starch gets through the digestive system to the colon, where it ferments. This acidifies the colon, where *E. coli* is found. And when bacteria grows under these acidic conditions, it develops extreme acid resistance necessary to survive the stomach acids in humans, which are supposed to protect against food-borne pathogens.

The team found switching cows to a hay-based diet before they are slaughtered means that the acid-resistant bacteria is reduced.

Hay-reared cows are safer

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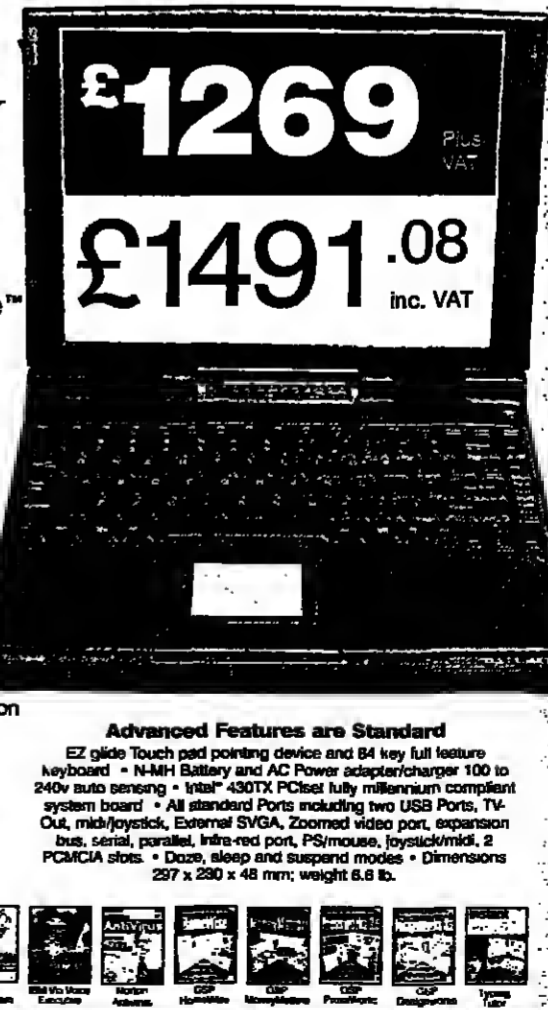
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OPERA
The Moon's
revenge: Otello
at the Coliseum

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
Aqua go for
a big splash
in Copenhagen



Verdian tragedy for our time

This extraordinary show came at the end of an equally extraordinary week. While ill-matched forces conspired to destroy the Royal Opera, English National Opera came up with a gripping Verdi staging that clearly demonstrates what the art form is all about, what it can do to an audience, and all in terms of today, here and now. That ENO should have such a success with a big "international" piece muddies the waters in an interesting fashion.

Tom Phillips's permanent set shows a military encampment, closely based on Farnagusta and on the fault line between Christian and Muslim worlds. This pale-brown Otello investigating against "the swollen pride of Islam" sets up

OPERA
Otello
Coliseum

vibrations that are relevant both historically and from a contemporary point of view. It is all meticulously detailed: radar screens, satellite dishes, barbed wire, and some nasty nuclear-looking things being gingerly lowered into holes. It is a minutely observed public setting for a private tragedy that gradually, inevitably and painfully becomes public. Phillips's new translation, in plain, singable contemporary English finalised in co-operation with the singers and carefully enunciated, works very well indeed.

The director David Freeman's choreography of the opening scenes is equally detailed and authentic. The tension between commissioned (Cassio) and non-commissioned (Iago) officers is perfectly caught, and the drinking scene (beer chasing ouzo) and ensuing riot (broken bottles and knives) are terrifying. The eruption of "suits" into this military world with the arrival of the Venetian envoys, the moment when the private becomes so painfully public, is faultlessly handled.

Some may object to Freeman's use of omnipresent extras, and I think it might be better to leave Iago in sole command of the stage for his "Credo". But the chair-duty squad interrupting the Otello-Desdemona duet in the third act causing them to return to "operative" formality was extremely telling, and the elaborate colour-ceremonies in the big ensemble underlined the way a public-private world was collapsing into chaos. One nagging reservation: milk-and-water passive heroines are obviously "out" today, but wasn't Susan Bullock's bright, capable, thoroughly modern Desdemona too clever to keep nagging on about Cassio? Wouldn't she have sorted out that stupid handkerchief business in two minutes?



Triumphant trio: (centre, left to right) Mark Le Brocq (Cassio), Susan Bullock (Desdemona) and David Rendall (Otello) in David Freeman's gripping new production for ENO

But Bullock sang wonderfully, as did the whole cast, aided by Paul Daniel's brilliant conducting: all the big moments made their mark, but he always listens to singers, breathes with them, gives them room to shape the lines as expressively as possible. David Rendall has done nothing better than this, his first Otello: the trumpet top is there when needed, but so is a steady stream of honeyed tone projected with Italianate lyricism. His portrayal of a decent man brought low was simple, heartfelt and extremely moving.

Robert Hayward's crew-cut, bespectacled Iago, behaving with perfect military correctness and fielding an absolute lethal smile, was relaxed, confident and quite revolting. Supporting cast, orchestra and chorus were on top form. A complete knock-out.

RODNEY MILNES

PROMS: Flag-waving at the Last Night; plus Beethoven's great Mass setting

Little, it seems, is ever going to change at the Last Night of the Proms. So there is no point in worrying about the hopelessly good-natured jingoism of those who believe that, once a year at least, Britannia still Rules the Waves. And it's best not to worry about the grown men clutching teddy bears, or those who blow bubbles and throw beach balls in the concert hall. Yet it is no longer fair to blame the Proms for to blame the Proms for foreigners are coming to sample this quaint British custom, and Saturday's event drew German tourists by the coach-load. Ah, the global village.

Global village parties in style

the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis, he gave a dazzlingly crisp account of Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini that was full of poetry too.

Even more enjoyable were the baritone's contributions. This was Tom Hampson in Ham Thompson mode as he hammed it up very amusingly to an appreciative audience in arias by Mozart and Rossini, but Verdi's *Di Provenza*, magnificently sung, was full of serious feeling. He celebrated Gerstwin's 100th birthday this month with real style, and donned an Anglo-American stars-and-crosses waistcoat for *Rule Britannia*.



Conductor Andrew Davis: spoke of music's importance

Just as television has its "God slot" so the Last Night has its "New Music slot", which gives the flag-wavers a chance to rest. Hugh Wood's *Variations for Orchestra*, a typically incisive work based on a droopingly lyrical theme, received its successful European premiere, and Thomas Adès's virtuosic showpiece *These Premises Are Alarmed*, a complex web of sound that delights and fascinates the

ear, was heard in London for the first time. Otherwise the programme was mostly a mix of the usual Victoriana and Edwardiana, with the BBC Symphony Chorus on excellent form and the orchestra playing splendidly despite provocation from the audience. In a new departure: there was a short relay from the Proms in the Park, with Tasmin Little playing *Paganini*. Andrew Davis steered clear of Radio 3 matters in his speech, but he did fly the flag for music education and music's importance to the future of the human race.

JOHN ALLISON

AS THE days draw in, so does the focus of London's concert life, and nowhere with keener anticipation than at the Wigmore Hall. For with the opening of the Wigmore on Thursday came the start of a mouth-watering Song Recital Series. The hall often begins with a youthful flavour. But this time it drew out its finest vintage: Swiss soprano Edith Mathis. Poise and consummate artistry apart, there are times when Mathis can look and sound nearer 16 than 60. Her trim, sprightly stage presence, bright eyes and yet brighter vocal focus can recall her youthful Despinna even bit as much as her mature Countess. Rarely has there been a voice so well-nurtured and well-preserved — though preservation seems an inappropriate image for a vocal energy so fresh.

HILARY FINCH

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Balm to a troubled soul

NOT everyone was crouching by a computer on Friday night waiting for the US Congress to talk dirty. The Albert Hall, for instance, was packed solid for a 90-minute show that was as far removed from steeze as it is possible to get in this perplex world.

Under normal circumstances one might have found Nikolaus Harnoncourt's interpretation of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* a little lacking in muscle. But, in the context of the sordid news saturating the media this weekend, his sublimely unworldly, hypnotically calm reading was like balm to the troubled soul. This was no heaven-storming belter of a performance. It crept into existence gently: stealed upon the ear; subdued the brassy outbursts of Gloria and Sanctus into glowing refinement; and skipped lightly and joyously through passages that usually pound the senses.

In short, Harnoncourt's reading was poles apart from



the magnificent Bernard Haitink account that opened the Proms last year. Yet in its own way it also fulfilled Beethoven's famous inscription on this most mysterious of Mass settings: that it should go "from the heart to the heart". The heart has no single lock and key; and neither does great music. Harnoncourt, the Austrian period-instrument pioneer who has revolutionised our view of so many choral masterpieces, seemed to be suggesting here that the Beethoven who penned *Missa Solemnis* had long ago detached himself, spiritually at least, from worldly turmoil.

Even the celebrated interruption from militaristic trumpets and drums in the Agnus Dei came across as a horror recollected in tranquillity.

With less good forces at his disposal his interpretation might have fallen embarrassingly flat. But the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is so responsive an instrument, so delicate of nuance, so virtuosic in articulation, that every bar seduced the ear. I have never heard the Crucifixus sound so hollow and strange, or the Sanctus so redolent of ancient monastic modes; or the Benedictus (with Marieke Blankensijn the superb violin soloist) so velvety and consoling.

To listeners used to the bright, upfront attack of British choirs the Arnold Schoenberg Choir from Vienna offered a startlingly different approach, not least in its Germanic pronunciation of Latin. But it gelled beautifully with this orchestra. And four excellent vocal soloists (Ruth Ziesak, Bernarda Fink, Herbert Lippert, Neal Davies) complemented each other gracefully.

RICHARD MORRISON

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POP: Aqua and the
Girl just want to have fun

Handwritten Arabic text at the top of the page.

POP: Aqua and the Spice Girls go into battle for the hearts and minds of the world's pre-teens

Girls just wanna have fun

Standing on a huge, steeply raked stage in the middle of Copenhagen's famously beautiful Tivoli Gardens, the singer Lene Nystrom has a question to pose. "Vil I se min numse?" she asks the 70,000-strong crowd...

Aqua Copenhagen



A colourful and energetic display of 1990s pop: Aqua's singer Lene Nystrom and her onstage sparring partner René Dif

From fey to feisty

Two years ago Sinéad Lohan played the Jazz Café. Back then she was a wistful Irish folkie, whispering her way through a set of beguiling acoustic-based songs...

Sinéad Lohan Jazz Café, NW1

makes Lohan's new album special. Lohan herself was a revelation. Gone, it seemed, was the bashful, almost fragile Irish girl of yore...

PAUL SEXTON WILLIAMSON

ARTS

This week in THE TIMES



At the Gielgud the fragrant Felicity Kendal stars in Arms and Excursions



Simply Red, alias Mick Hucknall, plays the first of seven gigs at the Lyceum



More car chases and shoot-outs with Mel Gibson in Lethal Weapon 4



Valery Gergiev conducts the LPO in a programme dedicated to Georg Solti

PLS: Turandot from the Latvian National Opera at the Albery Hall, Saturday

Bill Clinton was not the only one having difficulty getting his mind on the day job last week. Such has been the preoccupation of the showbiz busybodies...

Cooking without Ginger

Don Valley Stadium soon saw that the loss of Geri Halliwell has been surmounted with little difficulty, but this evening raised unavoidable questions about their ability to scale up from arena turn to artists whose presence can truly fill out a stadium...

Jukebox of some of the world's biggest (and, doubtless, most enduring) hits of recent years, from an early Too Much via 2 Become 1 to Viva Forever. The Girls' compulsive costume changes came almost after every second song...

PAUL SEXTON WILLIAMSON

A large grid of theatre listings under the heading 'THEATRES'. Each listing includes the name of the production, the venue, and contact information. Listings include 'The Inspector Calls', 'The Woman in Black', 'The Real Inspector Hound', and many others.

Save us from the scaffold

Derwent May proposes an architectural revelation

A couple of years ago I went to the charming little Italian town of Cremona for the first time. I had been assured by the hotel we were staying in that we would have a fine view of the cathedral from our room.

Most of those that have come out the other side are looking far better than we have ever seen them before. André Malraux, when he was Minister of Culture for France soon after the war, launched the great work of cleaning and reconstruction in Europe. Some people understandably think it was his greatest achievement, notwithstanding the fact that he was also the author of that powerful novel *La Condition Humaine*. Nevertheless, I think it is time for a while, to halt the process that Malraux began. I should like to call for a European Year without scaffolding. I even have that essential item, an acronym, for it: The European Year with an Embargo on Scaffolding, or EYES.

It would need to be planned a long way ahead. Many buildings are in absolutely vital need of repair, and their owners would need plenty of notice if they had to give up all prospect of doing anything for a whole year. The co-operation of governments would be essential.

In fact, it would be an ideal opportunity for the EU to show what it could do. Probably the Year would have to be designated at least ten years in advance — the year 2010, say. A few existing boulevards are always being ruined by obtrusive scaffolding and giant hanging cloths. Just now, it is the turn of the finest of them all, the Boulevard de la Madeleine.

In Rome, where everything is being prepared for the mass arrival of pilgrims in the Holy City in the year 2000, the whole architectural scene is in a state of upheaval, with St Peter's itself lying under a heavy shadow of repair and reconstruction work.

In Venice, in recent years, there has been constant disappointment for the visitors. The great brown box has been crawling all over San Marco and the Ducal Palace. The horses on the façade of the basilica have disappeared and emerged again, the face of the palace on the Piazza side vanished and came back, and at one point even the soaring campanile was under wraps.

Further afield in Venice, it must be acknowledged that the exquisite church of the Miraoli is now appearing wonderful, the cleaned marble on its exterior once again looking like the finest apricot skin — but it has been a long, long wait.

This year the Piazza San Marco is almost all back at last, but we still have to put up with some scaffolding over the clock tower where the figures strike the hour. At least the Venetians have delicately draped some blue material over the metal rods, like a dainty umbrella sheltering the figures.

In London, we have never seen the Houses of Parliament whole for a long time. Many foreign tourists went away with a very funny idea of Big Ben. Naturally, work had to be done on all the buildings.

Let the EYES have it for all our buried treasures

Clinton could have survived the sex — but his big lie to the people has shattered his presidency

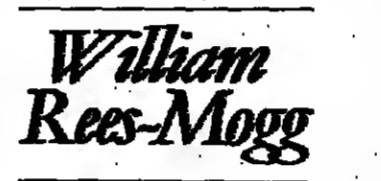
Humpty Dumpty in the White House

Kenneth Starr is a lawyer, not a politician, let alone a historian. His report is a rifle shot, dealing with one incident, and with a small group of impeachable crimes, including perjury and obstruction of justice. He had already forced the President's lawyers into a dangerously contradictory rebuttal. In essence, the President's reply to Starr is: "I did not commit perjury and I have already said I am sorry I did." Yet, in terms of the reaction of the American people, and even of Henry Hyde, the chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, Starr's rifle shot looks to have focused too narrowly on a single sexual incident.

therefore on oath. His lies about Miss Flowers were not on oath. The President's lawyers, whose personal attacks on Starr may be digging a deep pit for the President, accused Kenneth Starr of being obsessed with sex. Why is sex so important in this case? It is because it is provable. The complex network of Clinton scandals, in Arkansas and Washington, has five nodes. There is the use of Meigs Airport in the 1980s to ship arms out to the Contras and to ship huge quantities of cocaine into the United States; Barry Seal was the operator. Meigs was part of the largely Republican Iran-Contra scandal; Bill Clinton was the Governor who allowed it to happen in his state, and protected it.

trate on money? The reason is simple. The Clinton machine, in Arkansas and in Washington, was systematically organised to deal with scandals in a way that the Nixon White House was not. The corruption was real enough; there are Clinton associates still in prison to prove that. But they were cut-outs, the deniable intermediaries; these intermediaries certainly included Vince Foster, which is why his death was so important, and they went as high as Hillary. But Bill Clinton himself was protected, so far as possible.

and Kenneth Starr has proved them. Will Clinton survive? Possibly, but not as an effective President. Humpty Dumpty is the role model. "All the king's horses and all the king's men. Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again." When he recognised that he was in this situation, President Nixon finally resigned. I think it likely that President Clinton will reach a similar stage at some point in the impeachment process. He could have survived the sex the perjury and the big lie to the American people is more likely to prove fatal.



Even in the sex there was a system to protect Bill Clinton. The women, including Monica Lewinsky, were coached in denial, and were offered jobs or threatened in order to secure their silence. There were staff members whose work it was to stop the women talking. But Bill Clinton could not handle the sex through a cut-out, as he could the money. He could not ask John Huang, to have his "inappropriate relations" for him. He had to do it himself. Money was more important, but more deniable. Sex and perjury were provable

It would be the same in Britain, though it would have happened more quickly. Tony Blair has been supported by his friend Bill Clinton, well beyond the requirements of diplomacy. He must know that if any Prime Minister had had to make Bill Clinton's confession of August 17, he would already have had to leave Downing Street. The Guardian's leading article has the sniggering heading: "Clinton had illicit sex. Gosh." The Guardian itself took the issue of alleged perjury and a civil action much more seriously in the case of Jonathan Aitken.

There is a division in American opinion which is mirrored in Britain. There are many men who belong to Bill Clinton's generation and identify with him, even if their own lives have been less *louche* than his. There are many women who are indulgent towards his sexual escapades. There are many black people who see him

as a sympathetic President. These people do not want to believe the evidence; they want to explain it away. Many other Americans are shocked that an American President could behave in this way; they do not accept that "everyone does it"; they cannot forget the convincing way their President lied to them on television, in his "that woman" denial. The Democratic Senator Robert Kerry, who lost a leg in Vietnam, put one typical American view, when admitting his own anger. "He's Commander-in-Chief, for God's sake." Any officer who behaved as the President behaved in the Oval Office would be court-martialed and dismissed from service.

The Democrats now have to come to terms with the anger of these voters, as well as with their own anger and sense of disillusionment. It is, after all, the biggest free bonus the Republicans have had in this century. There are not many votes in adultery and none in perjury; apart from November elections, another two crippled years of a discredited presidency would hand the White House to the Republicans and further diminish the number of Democrats in Congress.

At the next presidential election, all Americans are likely to be looking much more closely at the character of the President. For many Americans, it is an issue of broad morality. They believe Monica Lewinsky; they do not believe Bill Clinton. They find the President's conduct in the Oval Office not just a personal matter but a disgrace. They believe he would tell any lie to get himself out of a difficulty. They feel he has betrayed his duty. The probability is that there is more and more to come. Bill Clinton may or may not be forced to resign, but it is inconceivable that he should be able to restore the trust or authority of his presidency.

The Clinton presidency has been exposed to multiple scandals since the 1992 Democratic primaries, which he won despite them. As Governor of Arkansas, he was repeatedly managing serious scandals even before that. Monica Lewinsky was a minor event, one of perhaps 300 women, in a career in which the money scandals have been more serious than the sexual ones. In the Paula Jones case, her lawyers buttressed her evidence that the President had exposed himself to her by introducing evidence of a pattern. Monica Lewinsky was only one of many women they alleged to have been involved in similar incidents; that was how President Clinton came to perjure himself in the Paula Jones pre-trial inquiries.

Kenneth Starr's report would have been better understood by the public if he had made more use of this evidence of a pattern. Apart from the perjury involved, Monica Lewinsky is by no means an exceptional case. Nor were the lies themselves or the pre-planning of the lies exceptional. After all, Clinton lied repeatedly about General Flowers, and tried to persuade her to lie. The exceptional point was that his lies about Miss Lewinsky were given in legal proceedings and

The second node is the financing of his Arkansas governorship, through Whitewater, through the \$700 million Arkansas Development Finance Authority, through his financial relations with Tyson Foods, through Hillary's commodity deal, and so on. These scandals were handled by Vince Foster as Bill Clinton's legal advisor. The third node is the fundraising for the 1992 campaign, in which Foster was again involved. The fourth is the funding of the 1996 campaign, with its Chinese connection through the mysterious John Huang. The "timbo eruptions" are only the fifth node in these Clinton scandals. Money was much more important than sex. Why, then, did Starr not concern

With a friend like Bill ...

The Clinton scandal has implications for Blair, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair will not distance himself publicly from Bill Clinton as long as he remains President. Nor should he. But he should start to differentiate Blairism from Clintonism: to give substance to that catch-all label, the Third Way. Having been in Washington for the past three days, I now believe that Mr Clinton is less, rather than more, likely to be forced out of the White House quickly. The very salaciousness of the Starr Report may be counterproductive: establishing that Mr Clinton is a philanderer and a liar does not necessarily add up to the "high crimes and misdemeanours" required for impeachment. It will all depend on unpredictable tides of opinion over the coming months.

The crisis engulfing the Clinton presidency presents the Blair circle with an acute dilemma. There are close links. Campaigning techniques, tactics and themes have been exchanged. Mr Clinton treats Mr Blair rather like an experienced mentor advising a promising young protégé.

Mr Blair talks of Mr Clinton not just as a colleague, but also a friend, and made a point of speaking to him on Friday. Throughout the affair, he has defended the President's record, believing that he has done a remarkably good job, while being helpful to the Blair Government, particularly over Northern Ireland. For all his personal failings, Mr Blair views Mr Clinton as being good for Britain. The Prime Minister would also not do himself any good with any future President by publicly distancing himself now: that is not how heads of government are supposed to treat each other. So for reasons of political calculation, as well as close personal relations, Mr Blair will support Mr Clinton as long as he is in office.



Yet Mr Clinton's troubles cast a deeper shadow in Downing Street. The very similarities of style make it more necessary for Mr Blair to demonstrate that Blairism is different, and not solely concerned with focus groups, presentation and the next day's headlines. But there is also an ideological side. Mr Clinton has some important achievements to his credit — the budget package and approval of world trade and North American trade agreements — even if the strength of the American economy owes more to the good judgment of Alan Greenspan at the Federal Reserve. Yet, otherwise, the Clinton record at home and abroad is thin and inconsistent.

Mr Blair is, of course, in a wholly different political position. What he proposes is enacted, given his vast and generally loyal Commons majority. The gibe that Blairism is all style and no substance has always been nonsense. Ministers themselves have a clear idea of what the Government should be trying to do: dealing with crime by young men, reducing preventable causes of ill-health, giving toddlers a better start, and improving standards in schools.

However, there is a curious absence of an underlying ideology. At one stage, Mr Blair seemed to relish this vacuum. His catchphrase was "what counts is what works". Yet over the past year, Downing Street has sponsored a series of seminars to fill the gap — three with the White House, with another scheduled for next Monday in New York. This is partly Mr Blair stroking the Left intelligentsia without committing himself. He is much more interested in political strategy — strengthening the Centre-Left — rather than ideology.

liberalism of the 1990s. Professor Anthony Giddens, of the London School of Economics, and a regular attendee at the Downing Street seminars, offers a good guide in his book *The Third Way*, published this weekend. He presents the ideas as a renewal of social democracy. The key is the role of the State in the era of globalisation.

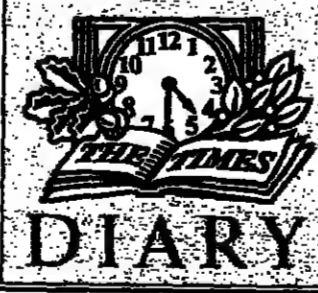
That debate has been given a further twist, not just by the troubles of Clintonism but also by the latest upheavals in global markets. At a recent conference of the old *Marxism Today* magazine, left-wing critics, such as the veteran Marxist Eric Hobsbawm, argued that this turmoil demonstrated the collapse of the neo-liberal approach embraced by Mr Blair under the Third Way umbrella. Free market/non-interventionist policies are under challenge in Malaysia and Hong Kong. At home, there are already increased demands for Government action and for modifying the Bank of England's anti-inflation remit in face of a wave of factory closures and fears of recession. Dissent over Blairism is likely to be exposed at this week's TUC gathering and at the Labour conference in two weeks.

Mr Blair also has to come to terms with a Centre-Left revival in much of the rest of Europe. He is personally on good terms with Lionel Jospin in Paris, and is keen to develop the relationship — for instance, working together to strengthen the European common foreign and security policy. But many French socialists dislike the Third Way as an Anglo-American neo-liberal concept. Gerhard Schröder, of the SPD, has been friendlier to the idea, though his campaign has shown more affinity with the glossier Clinton/Blair campaigning techniques than any fresh ideological thinking. But if he becomes German Chancellor after the September 27 elections, there will be much discussion about a common Centre-Left approach in Europe. The coincidence of the German elections and the demise of Clintonism may have the unexpected result of tilting Blairism more in a European than a transatlantic direction.

Time out

LORD BROCKET has taken me aside to talk for the first time about his doleful sojourn in the clink after his scam to defraud an insurance company — by pretending his Ferrari sports car had been stolen — went awry. "Having served in the Hussars in Northern Ireland and scooped the brains of a friend out of an ammunition box, prison life was not particularly unpleasant," says the stoical Brocket who recently left prison by motorbike. "I made friends, I survived. Some of the food at Ford was pretty awful — rice with bits in and ham curling at the edges." Despite such depictions, the peer is remarkably chipper. He is bringing out a CD with the Time Lords, an assortment of toffs and lags. I gather that he has also written his memoirs, written on a prison computer and which promise to be highly entertaining.

"I had to hide the disks in a way that blended in with the brickwork outside my cell because you were not allowed to store data," he says. This was not the only hazard. He witnessed another inmate being attacked, which, courageously, he reported. The gang responsible then took its revenge on the 3rd Baron. "They tried several times, so they were bound to get me in the end." His main irritation is that his ex-wife (pictured in happier days), the former Manhattan mannequin Isa, has taken his two sons and a daughter abroad: "It is slightly disconcerting when you assumed your sons would follow you to Eton but end up in a high school in Puerto Rico." Despite losing the splendid Brocket Hall on a long lease to a hotel company, he is optimistic. "The main thing prison teaches you is to be patient. Time is just not important." Recently he went to collect a new car. He was kept waiting for three hours. Other customers were furious, but he sat serenely. And no, he has not bought a new red Ferrari — just a functional blue Audi.



MO MOWLAM can take it no more. The Northern Ireland Secretary has begged Alan McGee, the Labour-friendly Oasis boss, to cease bombarding Stormont Castle with second-rate rock CDs from his Creation record label. Although Mo is generally a fan of all things loud and noisy (Ian Paisley apart), her guards have complained that the packages of noisy rock have caused terrorist alerts. The offending articles will in future be sent to a neutral address, an early benefit of the peace.

In passing MICHAEL OWEN is good at diving (as well as scoring) but I never look him for an actor. This is about to change because the Professional Footballers' Association has been taking advice from the luvvies' union

Equity about negotiating "repeat fees" for footballers whose sepia-drenched performances are re-shown in highlights packages. Programmes such as *A Question of Sport* replay classic moments from a ballsmith's prime — without so much as a pint in the bath in return. "Their thinking is that someone is making money out of this, and the players should receive a cut," explains an Equity voice. Just what is needed: more money for Paul Gascoigne's hospitality fund.

JOHN SPELLAR, the sacred-cow slaughtering Labour minister, is displaying the kind of reformist attitude towards the vulnerable that Margaret Thatcher would applaud. He was discussing plans with constituency workers to add a couple of floors to his local HQ in Watley. One unreconstructed Leftist argued that a lift would be needed for less able folk, whatever the cost. Spellar retorted that they could save the extra expense by waiting for older members to die.

Jerry bilked PITY the Dalai Lama. Dreaming of Tibet every night must lead to a rather gloomy existence. So imagine his enthusiasm when Jerry Hall, the model, offered to strip for his delectation at a charity auction

at the Kensington Roof Gardens. She was to wear a dress, so that she would fall out of and present to the highest bidder in aid of the Tibetan Society. Instead, Ms Hall, 42, has asked her hubby, Mick Jagger, to ring with the news of her sudden modesty. "I don't know why she does not want to strip now," says an organiser. "We won't get as much money for the dress now."

MY dear friend Rosie Boycott, Editor of *The Express*, is in danger of becoming a soap star as the subject of a documentary about her stint as Independent Editor. Viewers will see a Mark Pappenheim waiting for Rosie to sack him from that dreary journal. The axe, inevitably, fell. But since shooting, the chap



has washed ashore at *The Express* as opera critic (an undemanding post on that newspaper, I suggest).

High Jenks IT PROMISES to be a "most agreeable" lunch. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is to sit at claret-pouring distance from Hywel Williams. Provost of the Roy Jenkins Appreciation Society, a gaggle of curious right-wingers who spend convivial evenings quoting the great statesman to ironic effect.

Williams, whose *Guilty Men* exposed the farcical attempts at government by John Major, is limbering up to pay tribute to Roy of the Radicals at the *Oldie* literary lunch: "It is a great opportunity to share reportage and badinage with the Master, as we call him. We are witnessing the victory of Global Jenkinsism, but the Master will inevitably have an ambiguous relationship with the society. We shall chain ourselves to the Palace until he receives the Garter." Unlikely to be a long wait, one suspects.

That's my Bill JUST what Bill Clinton needs: support from that model of family value, Madonna. "It is ridiculous," says the Democrat-supporting sex-



obsessed singer (above). "He definitely cheated on his wife and that's not cool — but everybody does. I don't think it is going to affect his ability to govern the United States. If he is going to be impeached, then it should be for more important reasons than that."

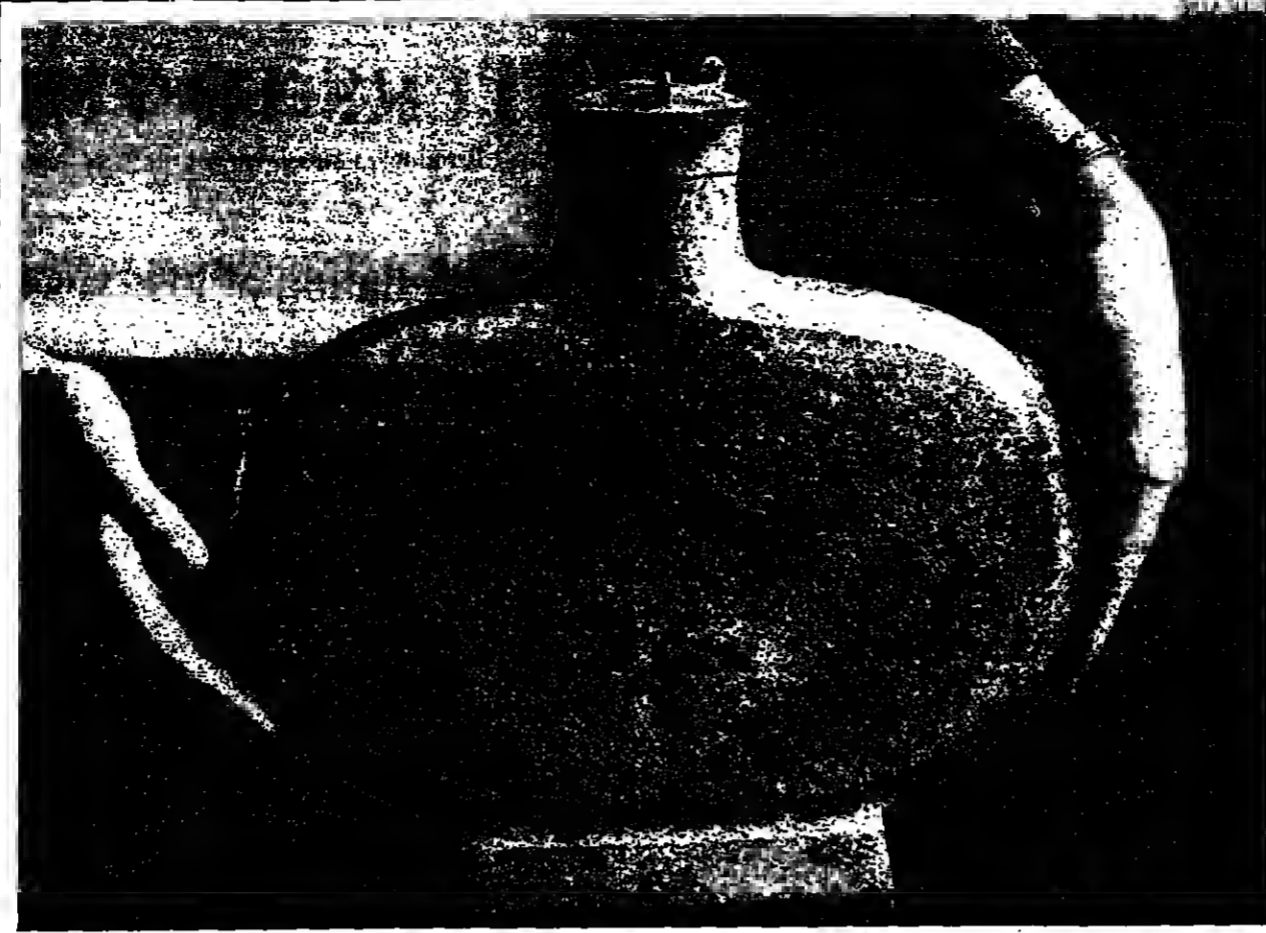
POLLUTION at Parliament is causing policemen to gag, so they have requested face-masks. The authorities have refused because the masks would look whimsical to the average psychotic terrorist type. JASPER GERARD



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 12: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Captain Roderick Stirling of Fairbairn...

Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Palace of the Golden Horses. CLARENCE HOUSE
September 12: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded the Lady Margaret Colville...



This Chinese dragon dating from 206 BC is filled with about two glasses of the original rice wine...

Wine survives 2,000 years

inside. The vessel was buried in a tomb in China still, it is believed, very recently...

have the wine inside the vessel. 'It's such a very unusual thing to have discovered.'

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will undertake engagements in London and East Sussex and as President...

Birthdays today

Miss Sandra Blow, painter, 73. Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, 82. Professor J.F. Coates, FRGS...

Legal appointment

Miss Andrea Jill Wainwright to be a District Judge, Western Circuit.

Nature notes

UNCOMMON visitors are migrating southward - or just drifting - throughout the British Isles...



Red-necked phalarope

At field edges there are still blossoming plants of mallow and white campion...

School announcements

Cambridge Tutors College, Croydon
Term begins today at Cambridge Tutors College with 210 students...

and on Wednesday, November 18, the Chapel Choir will sing Evensong at St George's, Windsor...

buffet lunch following the Service. A 'Taster Week-end' for 9-II year olds will be held on October 17-18...

Northwood College
The girls returned to school last week. Sachi Maude as Head Girl...

Harrogate Ladies' College
Harrogate Ladies' College opened for the Autumn Term on Tuesday, September 8...

Kelly College
Christmas Term at Kelly College commenced on September 8 with over eighty new pupils joining the College...

Wymondham College, Norfolk
Term begins today at the College with head boy, Sam Prince and head girl, Cheryl Wright...

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000
DEATHS: SURGE - Anne of Shiplake, 1998, Mrs loved husband of 33 years...

PERSONAL COLUMN
WANTED: ALL BIRTH AND REGISTRATION...
TICKETS FOR SALE: ACCESS TICKETS available in all 500 Club...
FOR SALE: A BIRTHDAY Present... Original...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL
CORSIKA: Discover this Captivating Island SPECIAL OFFER...
FLIGHT TRADERS: Cheap Air Fare Available...
FLIGHT WISE: HANOI - 27,800, 25,800, 24,800, 23,800...
FLIGHTS DIRECTORY: LIGHTSEEKERS...
Jetworld: CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE...

FARESAVERS
LEGAL NOTICES
ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS: MARIA - 1998, Mrs loved husband of 33 years...

Marriages

Lord Coleraine and Mrs M.R. Smyth
The marriage took place quietly on Saturday at St Peter's, Hunton Church...

Mr O. Skelding and The Hon Julia Norrie
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 12, at St Lawrence Church...

Mr C.J. Mitchell and Miss G. Philbin
The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Charles Mitchell...

RAF St Athan
Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief...

THANKS FOR THE SERVICE
Mr David Hunt
A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir David Hunt...

ANNIVERSARIES
BIRTHS: Baron Alexander von Humboldt, explorer, Berlin, 1769...

RAID

صدا من الامم

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL NIGHTINGALE OF CROMARTY

Michael Nightingale of Cromarty, OBE, investment banker, antiquary and conservationist died on September 2 aged 70. He was born on December 6, 1927.

Michael Nightingale's busy life had many strands, of which his career in the City seemed the least important. Britain's museums, its village churches, the Highlands of Scotland, the North Downs of Kent and rural Indonesia were among the multifarious interests which obsessed him.

For the best part of half a century, he fought these causes with an uncompromising zeal which never wavered, whether he was wearing his hat as a member of the Church of England's General Synod (he was once its lay chairman) or as Mayor of Maidstone. The detritus of such campaigns lined his study, burgeoning piles of correspondence from which he could extract with unerring accuracy any required document.

From these strands he wove a complex pattern which flew in the face of the current trend towards specialisation. He even acted for more than forty years as the Esquire Bedell of London University, bearing the mace in silken breeches on ceremonial occasions.

Yet a quick glance at his academic record might have pigeon-holed Michael David Nightingale as a farmer — and, indeed, to some extent he was that, too. Born in Blackheath, he was the son of a successful City stockbroker who several years later invested in a small estate and farm at Wormshill House in Kent, where Michael Nightingale was to spend much of his life.

He went to Winchester, where he led archaeological digs and started a campaign to restore the bells at Wormshill Church — enlisting the help of school contemporaries such as Geoffrey (now Lord) Howe, a lifelong friend. His mother, of Lithuanian descent, died when he was 16. His father almost immediately remarried, whereupon his son demonstrated his independence by moving out of the family home and setting up a house nearby.

From Winchester he went to Wye College to take a BSc in agriculture although his interest lay less in practical farming than in its history and its impact on the landscape. At Magdalen College, Oxford, which followed, he next read for a BLit de-



Michael Nightingale at work to his farm on the North Downs of Kent: what interested him most about practical farming was its impact on the landscape

gree by studying the Roman Field System — a subject much more up his street. In 1951 he organised an exhibition in Canterbury Cathedral of some of the treasures from Kent churches, thereby giving an early indication of the directions he was to follow in later life. In the same year, however, his father, who had not long to live, persuaded him to move into the City to make sure that he earned some money. He accordingly became an assistant to

the Iranian Oil Company's investment manager. In 1954 he moved to become the first-ever investment adviser to London University.

At the same time he was appointed secretary to the Museums Association and editor of the *Museums Journal*. It was Nightingale who instigated the Regional Museums Service to help the country's smaller museums with expert guidance. He also procured a Treasury grant which enabled the Walker Gallery in Liverpool

to buy Rubens's *Holy Family*. His own reward was appointment as OBE in 1960 for his services to museums.

The need to maintain a growing family kept him, however, involved in the City. He joined Thomasson's, a new merchant bank, in the early 1960s, remaining a director following its merger with the much larger Charterhouse Japhet, but then fell out with the new regime and left in 1970. He next became involved as a director of Anglo-Indonesian Plantations — the

biggest company of its kind in the Indonesian region — which had just been nationalised by the socialist Government in Jakarta. Nightingale's agrarian interests, his shrewd, if unorthodox, financial expertise and, above all, his fierce obstinacy, soon proved their worth in negotiations with the Indonesian Government. He successfully won back not only some of the company's estates but also some \$2 million in compensation — half of which had to be reinvested in the country.

The company later acquired the Chillington Corporation, which made high quality agricultural tools for the Third World, and Nightingale eventually became chairman of Chillington before leaving the board in 1989.

His ancient Scottish rite arose from his purchase in 1964 of Cromarty House, a fine 18th-century house in the small town of Cromarty, which had historic links with his wife's family. Nightingale restored the dilapidated building and went on to do much more for the town, helping among other things to raise funds for an out-station for both Aberdeen and Robert Gordon Universities.

He also fought a long and bitter battle to prevent an oil refinery from being built on his land along the coast — a fight which once kept the Commons up all night debating it. He lost the fight but arguably won the war, since he received a significant sum in compensation — while the refinery has never yet been built.

He belonged at one time or another to the Commonwealth Development Corporation and a profusion of bodies dealing with conservation issues. He served for a time on Kent County Council and Maidstone Council — sometimes as a Conservative and sometimes as an Independent.

But Nightingale was never anything but independent. A tall, thin figure with a long beard and a commanding voice, he stood out both physically and figuratively from his fellows. He was essentially a traditionalist who would wear blue serge three-piece suits while visiting remote church missions in the rain forests of Indonesia. He worked tirelessly for his old colleges, whether Winchester, Wye or Magdalen, and was frequently locked in confrontation with the College of Heralds. He loathed red tape.

His refusal to compromise made Nightingale a difficult man with whom to work. But even his critics had to admit that he was right more often than not, and he usually got his way through sheer "cussedness". The number of his enemies, moreover, was counterbalanced by an equal number of close and loyal friends.

His 1951 marriage to his first wife Antonia was dissolved, and in 1956 he married his second wife Hilary, whom he had worked with on the *Museums Journal*. Michael Nightingale, who had been suffering from cancer for three years, is survived by her and by their two sons and three daughters.

GERALD COLLIER

Gerald Collier, educationist, died on August 10 aged 88. He was born on March 24, 1910.

FOR 16 years, beginning in 1959, Gerald Collier led Bede College in the University of Durham to the highest levels of teacher training and education in Britain. A great innovator, he made his influence felt in every area of education — from the training of teachers, through research, to the development of audio-visual technology and its introduction to classrooms and lecture halls. He had enormous energy, which was combined with total commitment to the college, his students and staff.

Collier arrived in Durham having spent almost 30 years in teaching and the education of teachers, with a significant break as a wartime industrial chemist in West Cumbria, a part of England he and his wife Gwen never forgot. It was in the course of that break that he resolved to devote the rest of his life to education.

At Durham, all Collier's experience was focused on modernising Bede College in the educational, social and physical sense. Considerable growth occurred. The college at every level became a force to be reckoned with not just in Durham University, but in national and international debates about higher education, schools, educational research and the training of teachers.

Kenneth Gerald Collier was educated at Aldenham School, Elstree, from where he went up to St John's College, Cambridge, reading science there. After both a prewar and postwar period teaching in schools, culminating with being the physics master at Lancing, he accepted in 1949 an appointment as a lecturer training teachers at St Luke's College, Exeter. He stayed there for ten years before in 1959 being summoned north to become Principal of the College



Collier made Durham a centre of educational excellence

of the Venerable Bede, Durham, another Church of England college. He was a devoted churchman whose faith and social beliefs were powerfully reflected in his deeply intellectual approach to his work.

He travelled widely — going twice as a visiting professor to Temple University, Philadelphia, getting to know a number of European countries, starting with Sweden (where he worked as a translator as a young man), and lecturing for the British Council in India, Brazil and Portugal. He was a highly successful author, whose books included *The Social Purposes of Education* (1959), *New Dimensions in Education* (1968) and *A New Teaching, A New Learning* (1989); he also contributed articles and papers to educational and more general journals. Collier's work influenced thousands of students in many disciplines but "education, educa-

tion, education" was his philosophy long before it became a political mantra.

On first acquaintance some tended to regard Collier as austere or even aloof — probably because he was a little shy and deeply serious — but he was actually very gregarious, loving company, dialogue and debate, the arts, theatre and music. He had a very self-deprecating sense of humour.

Gerald and Gwen Collier loved to entertain. Their generous hospitality was enjoyed by a wide circle of friends. A large number of former students and colleagues continued to visit them long after Collier's retirement. After a brief period as an honorary research fellow in the University of East Anglia, 1978-81, the Colliers returned to Durham, where they had spent their most productive and happy years.

His wife survives him, with their two sons.

HUGH PIERCE

Hugh Pierce, broadcasting administrator, died in London on September 10 aged 66. He was born in South Wales on October 13, 1931.

WHEN the official history of BBC local radio broadcasting comes to be written, Hugh Pierce's name will assuredly be more than a footnote. It was he who, as General Manager of Local Radio from 1970 to 1974 (and, before that, as Local Radio Development Manager), ensured that the experiment of local broadcasting was successfully completed and thereafter sustained. Pierce's commitment to public service broadcasting and his grasp of the administrative dimension reflected a rare combination of humanitarian values and managerial talent.

Hugh Humphrey Pierce was the son of a doctor, practising in the interwar years in the mining areas of South Wales, who died when Hugh was only 15 and still a schoolboy at Clifton College. He went from there to King's College London, graduating in 1954 by which time he had already become president of the faculty's law society and of the college union. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1955.

Before setting out on legal practice he did National Service in the Intelligence Corps in Cyprus, then in the midst of civil war. It was to be the determining factor in his career. As a result of his being blown up by a mine, his hearing was seriously impaired. Although he tried to practise on the Wales and Chester circuit, he abandoned advocacy for a career in management and industrial relations. His work was nevertheless usefully tinged with legal acumen.

Pierce arrived at the BBC in 1963 via Kodak, where he had been engaged in administrative and legal work; he had equipped himself with a diplo-

ma in personnel management and became a member of the Institute of Personnel Management. At the BBC he was the administrative officer and the local radio development manager detailed to implement the recommendations of the Pilkington Committee for local radio, endorsed by the Labour Government. Originally authorities were made to finance their own embryonic local radio stations, but before long, at an early stage of the experiment, the funding came out of the BBC licence fee. Thereafter, stations, in two batches in the late 1960s, came on stream. The first eight were Stoke, Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds and Durham. A second batch, in early 1970, included Radio London. The incoming Heath administration favoured commercial local broadcasting, but the BBC did not alter its plans.

Although possessing no broadcasting experience, Pierce speedily won the regard and respect of his local radio station managers. Any problem that cropped up — and there were many in those pioneering days — was instantly addressed. Whereas today advice and direction would come from headquarters by e-mail, Pierce would hop on the first train to the trouble spot in the provinces. The opposition to BBC local radio was not confined to the politicians. It came in no small measure from those within the BBC. National and regional broadcasting, yes of course; but local stations were really too small to make viable units. That the BBC's local radio stations survive and flourish to this day can in large part be traced to Pierce's work.

In 1974 Pierce was transferred from local radio to become Controller of Staff Administration, where he worked assiduously in a less congenial environment yet one of supreme importance to the corporation of that time. It



Pierce brought legal acumen to broadcasting and to a range of humanitarian causes

clearly took a heavy toll on his health. A major coronary attack led to his retirement at the early age of 48.

For nearly 20 years he then distributed his talents among a number of worthy causes that matched his civil libertarian views and managerial skills. He was a member of a commission which looked into the services provided by occupational therapists. He was a founder member of ICSTIS, the independent regulatory body supervising the premium-rate services on the telephone network. He was for many years a member of the executive committee of the Howard League for Penal Reform and in more recent years was on the Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad. Justice was another of his interests in legal reform.

His entry in *Who's Who* contained an obscure reference to a report for Justice — "Regina v. Iain Hay Gordon, 1953". This was a reference to a case in Northern Ireland in which a Glaswegian serving in the RAF was held to have killed the daughters of a Northern Ireland High Court judge. Gordon was found "guilty but insane" and detained in a mental hospital for seven years, although he was never considered to be mentally disordered by the doctors.

Pierce, together with Fred Lawton QC (later Sir Frederick Lawton, a Lord Justice of Appeal), went on behalf of Justice to make representations to the Stormont Government for the release of Gordon. The Minister for Home Affairs agreed, without conceding the propriety of the insanity verdict. Forty-five years later, with the advent of the Criminal Cases Review Commission to identify miscarriages of justice and refer such cases to the Court of Appeal, Pierce picked

up the threads of his advocacy for Gordon's persistent claims to innocence of the crime. Sadly, the case is still being processed and he did not live to see the end of his campaign.

To his friends and a wide circle of acquaintances, Pierce was a most lovable man. He could be, at one and the same time, harshly critical of even the closest friend and yet display the warmest affection towards his instant victim. The habit so disarmed the recipient of the criticism to the point of instant acceptance of the criticism. Perhaps that was the way in which those involved in local radio succumbed so readily to their management at the hands of Pierce.

His wife Rachel, a social scientist of distinction whom he met in their student days at the University of London and married in 1955, survives him with their two sons.

Church news

The Rev Derek Watson, Assistant Curate, West Acklam (York), to be Priest-in-Charge, Ingleby Barwick within the parish of Stainton-in-Cleveland (same diocese).

The Rev Erik Wilson, Vicar, Hull St Martin with The Transfiguration, and Area Dean of West Hull (York), to be Vicar, Linthorpe (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Fred Bonham, Team Vicar, Newbury (Oxford) to resign on September 30.

The Rev Francis Bown, Vicar, Hull St Stephen Sculcoates (York) to resign on October 17.

The Rev Andrew Brooks, Vicar, Erdington St Chad (Birmingham) resigned on June 30.

The Rev Roger Chadwick, Rector, Eggescliffe (Durham) to resign on October 31.

Canon Martin Coombs, Team Vicar, Dorchester St Peter and St Paul (Oxford), to retire on September 13.

Canon Dr Robert Crossley, Team Rector, Camberley St Paul, and Honorary Canon of Guildford Cathedral L (Guildford) to retire on October 31.

The Rev William Elliott, Vicar, Belmont (Durham) to retire on September 30.

The Rev David Fletcher, Rector, Oxford St Ebbe with Holy Trinity and St Peter (Oxford), retired on August 31.

Canon Michael Godwin, Vicar, Bramley and Gaffham (Guildford) to retire on October 3.

The Rev Bill Griffiths, Vicar, Stockton St James (Dur-

ham) resigned on July 30.

The Rev John Hillman, Team Vicar, Syston Team Ministry (Leicester) to retire August 30.

Canon Arthur Mawson, Canon and Treasurer, Exeter Cathedral (Exeter) retired on December 31.

The Rev Harry Morse, Curate, Downend Christ Church (Bristol) retired on July 31.

The Rev Clive Morton, Vicar, Birmingham St Peter (Birmingham), to resign on October 14 to train for ministerial service abroad, with permission to officiate in Birmingham.

The Rev Ken Short, Rector, Alford and Loxwood (Guildford) retired on September 3.

The Rev Eric Smits, Rector, Broiton Parva (York) retired on July 16.

HAND TORCHES ALLOWED

It was announced last night that to assist drivers and pedestrians in black-out conditions it has been decided to relax the present restrictions upon the use of handlamps in motor-vehicles and of hand torches by pedestrians. A suitable type of mask for headlamps has been devised by the Ministry of Home Security and will be placed on the market as soon as possible. When masks of this type are available their use will be compulsory on all vehicles on the roads at night. For the present, until the new mask is available, the following simple method of screening headlamps will be allowed under the lighting order.

The bulb must be removed from the outside headlamp. An opaque cardboard disk must be fitted immediately behind the glass of the near side lamp, and must cover the whole area of the glass except for an aperture of a semi-circular shape 2in in diameter, with the base uppermost. The

ON THIS DAY

September 14, 1939

In addition to these war-time improvisations, motorists were strongly advised to avoid night travel, and to use bus and underground instead.

The lower part of the reflector must be completely blacked out eg. with black cardboard or paper, or with two coats of matt black paint, up to a distance of half inch above the centre line of the reflector. If these requirements are observed no hood need be fitted. The use of very thin cardboard will facilitate the replacement of the front glass in some types of lamp, but it is essential that the card-

board should be completely opaque. The use of hand torches by pedestrians will be permitted subject to the following conditions: The light must be dimmed by placing two sheets of tissue paper or the equivalent over the glass bulb or the aperture through which the light is emitted. The light from the torch at all times must be projected downwards, and all torches must be extinguished during the period of an air raid warning.

Pedestrians should bear in mind that it is difficult for drivers to see them at night, and the carrying of a white object, such as a newspaper or the wearing of a white article, such as a handkerchief, on the sleeve is recommended. Torches directed vertically downwards may be used by pedestrians to indicate their presence when crossing a road. They must never be directed towards a driver.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the use of handlamps and torches must cease as soon as an air raid warning is sounded: in such circumstances headlamps and torches must be extinguished immediately.

Don't have to use to move to a mortgage. Direct Line.

NEWS

Democrats put Starr in the dock

The White House mounted a ferocious counter-attack on the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, accusing him of titillating America in order to humiliate President Clinton.

Government faces TUC challenge

Trade union leaders gave a warning that a recession was imminent and launched a comprehensive attack on Gordon Brown's economic policy.

A healing cuppa

The world's biggest coffee-drinking nation has discovered that tea may be the wonder drug of the age.

Rewriting history

The earliest writing system was developed in ancient Egypt not Mesopotamia, as scholars have traditionally asserted.

Auction conflict

Polar experts have accused Christie's of damaging Antarctica's cultural heritage by auctioning artefacts from Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expeditions.

Hague attacks Heath

William Hague dismissed Sir Edward Heath as a sad and embittered old man, claiming that young people shared his sceptical view of Europe.

Lift-off for Viagra

The European Commission is expected to approve tomorrow the licensing of the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

Mistaken for spies

More than 100 Britons were suspected of being traitors during the Second World War, according to an intelligence dossier just released.

Scary spiced

Melanie Brown became the first Spice Girl to get married and, for once, it was not just the celebrities who were cashing in.

Riots grip Tirana

Crowds angry at the assassination of an opposition leader stormed Albania's main government building, setting it alight and forcing Fatos Nano, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet to flee.

Dog ID proposal

Britain's 5.3 million dog owners would be forced to pay for their pets to be identified by microchip and logged on a database under proposals expected to win ministerial support.

Kohl's Bavarian boost

The flagging fortunes of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, were given a boost from conservative Bavarian voters.

Timetable rethink

The first Jewish school to fail an Ofsted inspection has been ordered to rethink a timetable which devotes more than half of each day to prayer and religious study.

Taleban advance

Fears of a military confrontation between Iran and Afghanistan grew after Taleban militia reportedly captured Bamian, one of the last strongholds of Tehran-backed opposition forces in Afghanistan.

Flower pots hide £1m of gold

A "treasure map" led police to 330lb of gold ingots in terracotta flowerpots at the villa of Licio Gelli, a convicted fraudster and political eminence grise.



Two blue: Jacinthe Taillon and Kasia Kulesza, the Canadian duo, on their way to earning the top score for a technical routine in the synchronised swimming competition at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. Games reports, pages 38, 39

BUSINESS

Redundancy fears: More than 500,000 manufacturing jobs will be lost in a recession that is just "hours away", say unions.

Russian refusal: Representatives of the G7 nations are to reject Russian pleas for financial aid - unless the country lays down firm proposals for political reform.

Philips talks: The Government is holding urgent negotiations in an attempt to save 2,000 jobs that could go if the Dutch electronics company closes its UK television factories.

That's entertainment: The president of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment is frustrated - his company has produced its best slate of films just as it is being sold by Seagram.

FEATURES

Loving struggle: John Bayley describes Iris Murdoch as "formidably learned". Yet now that she has Alzheimer's disease, she is happiest watching children's television. In the first extract from his memoir of his wife and fellow writer, Bayley describes the struggle to cope with her behaviour.

High street chic: The latest looks have been copied by all and sundry, so if you have designer tastes but a tight budget look no further than the high street.

Free at last: Liberalisation of the power industry means that customers are now free to choose their supplier. A special report on domestic power.

ARTS

High notes: English National Opera scores a triumph with David Freeman's gripping new modern military staging of Verdi's Otello at the Coliseum.

Froms weekend: On Friday night Nikolaus Harnoncourt's interpretation of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis was like balm to a troubled soul, while on Saturday Andrew Davis led the last night party in style.

Danish popstars: Aqua, the quartet behind the massively successful Barbie Girl, launch themselves on the live circuit with a gig in Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens.

Girl power: The Spice Girls take to the road for their first British show since their downsizing from quintet to quartet.

SPORT

Football: Middlesbrough ensured that Paul Gascoigne made a happy return to White Hart Lane with a 3-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur.

Motor racing: Michael Schumacher ensured a potentially thrilling finish to the Formula One world championship with a victory in the Italian Grand Prix at Monza that brought him level on points with Mika Hakkinen.

Tennis: Lindsay Davenport won the US Open title in her first Grand Slam final after overcoming Martina Hingis.

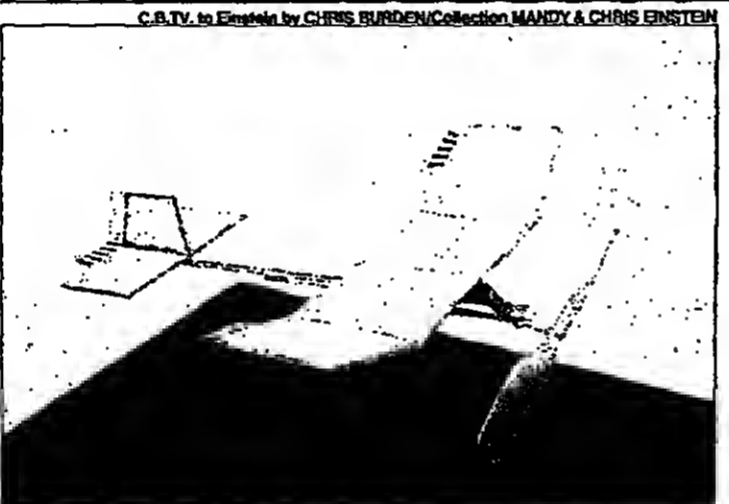
Athletics: Steve Backley, in the javelin, and Iwan Thomas, in the 4x400 metres relay, provided rare moments of cheer for Great Britain on the final day of the athletics World Cup.

Commonwealth Games: James Hickman, the Great Britain swimmer, who a silver medal in the 400 metres medley, 40 minutes after being disqualified from the 100 metres butterfly.

Golf: Colin Montgomerie defied his recent poor form to win the One 2, One British Masters.

LOTERY

3, 15, 23, 25, 28, 33. Bonus 29. One ticket won the £11,037,408 rollover jackpot; 13 tickets won £173,901 each for five numbers and the bonus; 1,218 won £1,160 for five balls; 72,292 won £45 for four; and 1,283,898 won £10 for three.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ARTS The century's obsession with speed: Richard Cork reviews a new exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery.

LAW Through litigation hell to Hollywood: a lawyer makes it in the movies.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,896

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27.

ACROSS and DOWN clues for the crossword puzzle, including 'Not venturing out to support party (4-2-4)', 'Stuff knocked back is brandy (4)', etc.

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have sunshine and scattered sharp showers after a chilly start. Northern and western Scotland will be cool and breezy with sunny intervals and a few showers.

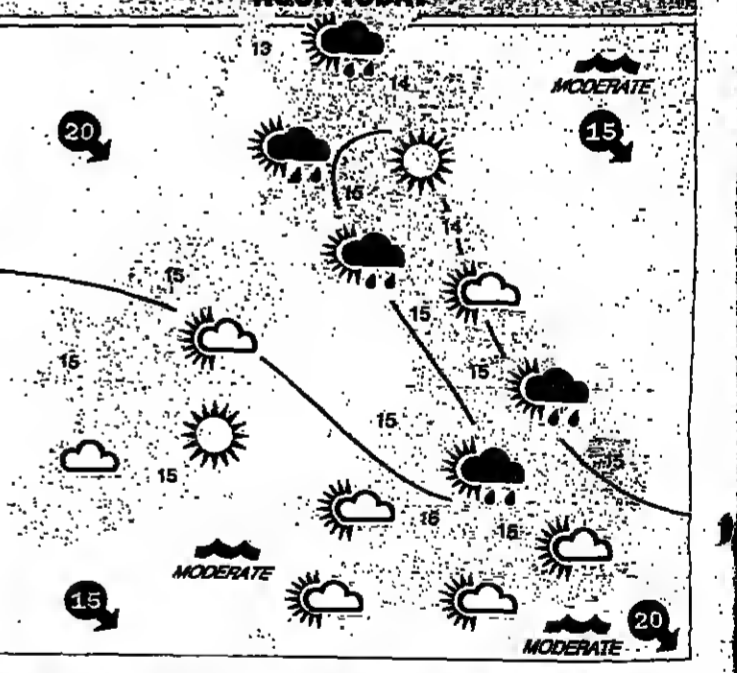
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, sun, rain, and wind for various locations like Aberdeen, London, and Manchester.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad for various cities like Aliso, Madrid, Moscow, and New York.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: Low A will drift northeast and deepen. High B will remain in situ and decline slightly.

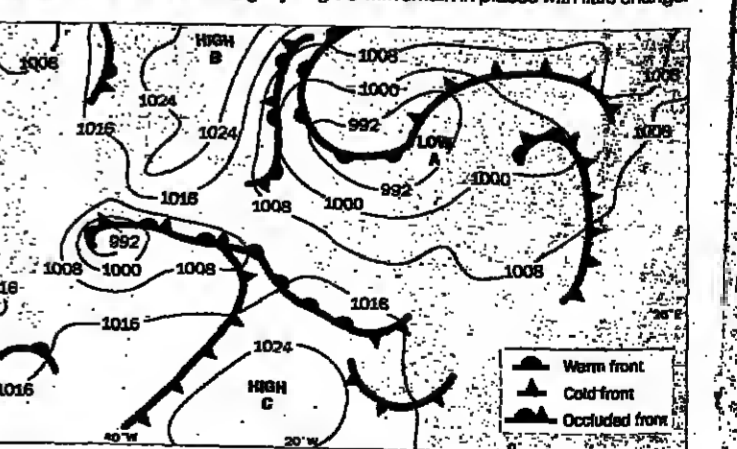



Table showing high tides for various locations including Aberdeen, Liverpool, London, and Manchester.

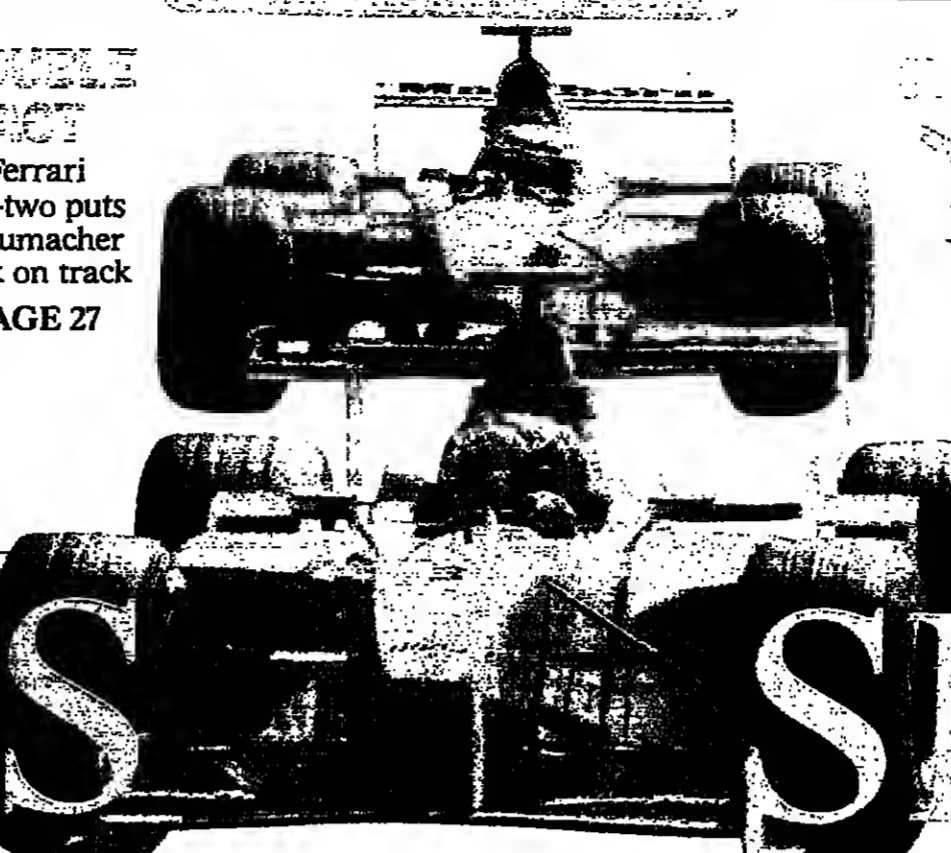
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سكزا من الاحل


Davenport comes of age at US Open
PAGE 28



DOUBLE ACT
Ferrari one-two puts Schumacher back on track
PAGE 27



Dickie Bird on why he called time
PAGE 37



TIME SPACES

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1998

TWO GOALS BY COLOMBIAN STRIKER LIFTS ROBSON'S SPIRITS



Down and out Ferdinand, the Tottenham striker, is foiled once more by Schwarzer, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, on another day of anguish and frustration for the home side at White Hart Lane yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Fumbling Tottenham offer little resistance

THE whisper swirled around White Hart Lane yesterday that Glenn Hoddle had arrived, looking perhaps for an escape route from the siege that has forced him to man the barricades at Lancaster Gate, but if he was here, the England coach had long since slunk away by the final whistle. Even opprobrium is better than the apathy that is spreading contagiously from pitch to terraces and back again at Tottenham Hotspur.

The Tottenham fans could barely summon the energy to jeer their team yesterday, so drained were they by a performance of a sterility that was barely imaginable. You will hear more laughter in a morgue.

This was a joyless occasion for anyone but the travelling supporters, and the smile had certainly been wiped off the face of David Pleat whose hon-fame period as caretaker manager lasted precisely one game. Like Gerry Francis and Christian Gross before him, Pleat is discovering that there is a deep-rooted malaise in the home dressing-room that will not be solved merely by a bit of tactical tinkering.

It will be a brave manager indeed who accepts this vacancy, and even a man of Hoddle's unparalleled self-belief will wonder if it is a task beyond him.

month's European championship qualifier against Bulgaria, but there seems as much chance of Eileen Drewery filling the void as the Middlesbrough puffer.

That is not to say Gascoigne performed badly. He put in a quite respectable display, barely wasting a ball. But if Bryan Robson is right in claiming that Gascoigne is now back to full fitness, though, one really does have grounds for worry. Either he is badly misguided or Gascoigne's body has suffered more self-inflicted damage than any of us have imagined.

This was the England midfielder's first league game at White Hart Lane since May 1991, and he emerged to a generous ovation. The sort of sentimental applause that home fans can afford to indulge on a former player whom they know is past his best.

Still, he was a colossus compared to Nicola Bertini who could not have played worse. Even by their own poor standards of recent times, this was shocking stuff from Tottenham.

With Middlesbrough fielding a line of five across the back, Les Ferdinand and David Ginola always had two men each to beat. The Frenchman was shackled expertly by Gianluca Festa and without him there was no outlet at all. "David was a mixture," Pleat said, presumably meaning a mixture of bad and indifferent.

Robson, his Middlesbrough counterpart, should have been delighted, but "remained defen-

TOTTENHAM 0

MIDDLESBROUGH 3

By Matt Dickinson

sive and prickly, perhaps understandably so given that his dressing-room has been portrayed as some smoke-filled den of vice where players fritter away their wages around a poker table.

"I felt we answered some questions," he said. "People keep bringing things up which

is very detrimental to the club so the lads have gone out and proved what they can do on the pitch.

"Their professionalism was questioned but they have made the perfect reply so far, taking heart that we are looking solid now we have five across the back. The last time



Bertini leaves Gascoigne foundering in a midfield tussle

we were in the Premiership I think we only won two away games all season and now we have won two in a week.

"Gazza has been one of better players since the start of the season. They make sarcastic remarks about not finishing games, but I am just bringing him off to protect him from being injured."

Middlesbrough's victory was fully deserved and could have been more comprehensive. Colin Calderwood was culpable for the first two goals, although Sol Campbell, who did not look fit, will not be thrilled at his contribution either. Twice the England defender could not stop Mikkel Beck providing the assists for Ricard's strikes.

The first arrived after 26 minutes when the Colombian's one-two with his Danish partner opened a gulf of space in the Tottenham defence. With Calderwood sacked out of position, Ricard could stroll through before placing his finish.

It was a clever move but one that still needed the complicity of the Tottenham defence who obliged again five minutes later. Another neat exchange between Beck and Ricard allowed the latter to once again wriggle free of Calderwood and thump an 18-yard shot past the despairing Baardsen.

Tottenham could barely escape from their own half, never mind put together a penetrating attack as their fragile confidence shattered. "We did not have that zip we had on Wednesday," Pleat said. "Our

build-up was too slow and allowed them to sit back and defend the goals.

"You try and look for reasons but it is hard. There was just no imagination at all and we did not have enough purpose. The confidence goes too quickly. Maybe some of the players are believing their own reputations although I would hope there is no complacency."

Middlesbrough could have won by more had Baardsen not produced a save of breathtaking agility to tip Beck's

United magic.....30
Mentioned cash in.....30
Zola power.....31
Results, tables.....32

30-yard drive just wide. Until the final minutes, the Spurs goalkeeper had been the only home player who could depart the pitch without embarrassment.

Even he managed to spoil that achievement in the final minutes when Klinder's shot from the edge of the area squirmed through his grasp. "Not many of the players can walk away saying they have done themselves any credit," Pleat said. Make that none of them.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-5-1): E Baardsen - S Carr, C Colleswick, S Campbell, P Trancossi - R Fox (sub), A Sinton, SSNey, N Bert, S Clernony (sub), C Armstrong, A Welton (sub), M Seb, Ed, D Genis - L Ferdinand
MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-2): M Schweszer - G Festa, C Cooper, S Vickers, G Palkster, O Gordon - R Mustoe, P Gascoigne (sub), V Knicker, BTI, A Townsend - H Ricard (sub), M Bony, M Beck (A Campbell 86 mins) Referee: S Lunn

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German draws level with Hakkinen after dramatic Italian Grand Prix victory

Schumacher proves first among equals

IN THE space of ten seconds yesterday, Michael Schumacher saw his world championship hopes rise as high as the multitude of red Ferrari flags that eventually flew in triumph above the Monza circuit.

FROM KEVIN EASON AT MONZA

Schumacher has been involved in a gruelling pursuit of Mika Hakkinen that has lasted 14 races and stretched across four continents this year. He has never led, always being one step behind Hakkinen and a McLaren-Mercedes team that seemed as though it would dominate the season.

They cascaded on to the track to greet the man who now stands on the threshold of winning Ferrari's first Formula One drivers' championship

In 19 years, Schumacher drew level on points with Hakkinen, who finished fourth, but with two races to go, the momentum is with Schumacher.

It was not just the adoration of the Ferrari faithful that lifted Schumacher but also the knowledge that he is now within touching distance of the title after winning a race that should have belonged to McLaren and cemented Hakkinen's claim to the title.

The German believed that he had blown his chance: with a bad start from pole position that allowed Hakkinen and David Coulthard, his McLaren team-mate, to charge into an imposing lead.

"It must have looked like I wanted to go for a walk instead of starting a race," Schumacher said. "Everything that could go wrong went wrong and I realised I had let the

McLaren through." But the perversity of Formula One was to be unveiled in all its cruel glory as McLaren's day crumbled.

Hakkinen suffered handling problems from the outset and was forced to move over after 12 laps to allow a flying Coulthard to press on for what should have been an easy victory. It was not to be, though, and the optimism in the McLaren garage was shattered in those ten conclusive seconds.

Coulthard had been going faster with each lap and, by lap No 17, had put more than nine seconds between his McLaren and the struggling Hakkinen, who was being hunted down by a determined Schumacher. Even as Schumacher assessed his overtaking opportunity, Coulthard's engine suddenly seized,

throwing a dense pall of smoke over the circuit. Hakkinen drove blind through the billowing smoke and oil and lost sight of the chicane ahead, driving slightly wide.

It was enough for Schumacher to pounce, sneaking inside the McLaren. Hakkinen struggled to fight back, but it was useless; in those few seconds, McLaren had seen their chances of winning evaporate with the smoke coming from Coulthard's engine.

"It was terrible," Hakkinen said. "I couldn't see and then I was trying to keep Schumacher back, but the car wasn't right and I knew we were in trouble." Hakkinen hung on, but he was unable to make a dent in the German's lead.

Behind him, Jacques Villeneuve, for Williams, Eddie Irvine, in the second Ferrari, and Ralf Schumacher, in a Jordan, were battling for places. Damon Hill put one of the performances of the day, charging through the field from fourteenth on the grid and eventually finishing an impressive sixth.

However, the race came to a farcical end for Johnny Herbert, Hill's fellow Briton, who discovered that a mechanic had left a pair of pliers in the footwell of his Sauber. They became trapped under the brake pedal, forcing him into a spin on lap 13. "I am not happy at all," was all that an angry Herbert could say.

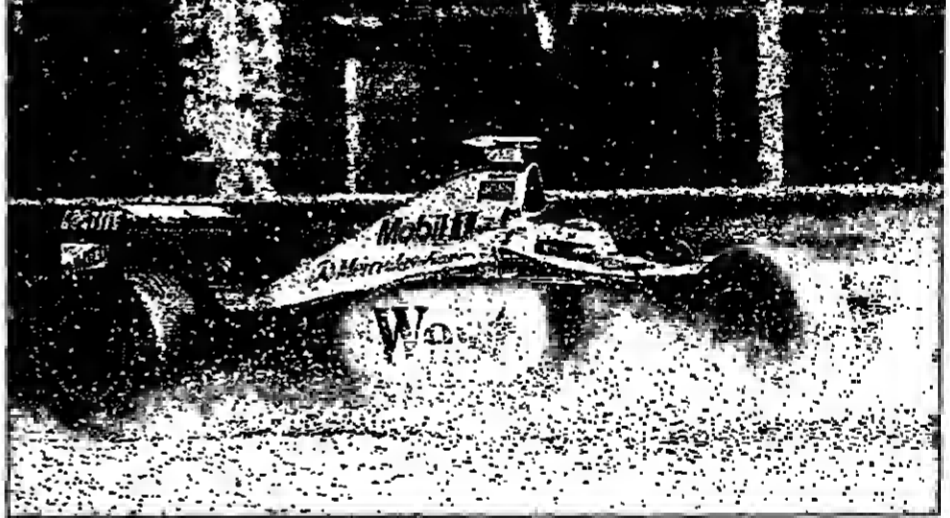
No such problems troubled Schumacher, whose serene progress was interrupted only by a pit stop on lap No 31. For Hakkinen, the trip to the pits three laps later was a chance to correct the aerodynamic and tyre problems that had slowed him down and launch a huge effort to get back to Schumacher. But almost as soon as the Finn had set the fastest lap, he discovered that he had a serious brake problem that was enough to put him into a spin at the second chicane on lap No 46.

That mechanical failure was to cost him second place and the lead in the world championship. "There was nothing I could do," he said. "It is not good to know you cannot do anything about the situation so I just had to get on with trying to protect my position and getting points."

By the time that Hakkinen got under way again, Irvine — on his way to the podium and the second one-two Ferrari finish of the season — and Ralf Schumacher were on his tail and able to overtake easily as Hakkinen struggled on one of the fastest grand prix circuits with defective brakes. It was not just a race lost for Hakkinen, but what could be the defining day of his championship.



Schumacher has leapt into favouritism for the Formula One world title after Hakkinen, the season-long leader, ran into trouble at Monza yesterday



Schumacher has leapt into favouritism for the Formula One world title after Hakkinen, the season-long leader, ran into trouble at Monza yesterday

DETAILS

RESULT: 1. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1hr 17min 06.672sec, 2. E Irvine (Ire, Ferrari) 27.977sec, 3. R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 41.150, 4. M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 55.571, 5. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:01.872, 6. O Hill (GB, Sauber) 1:06.680, 7. J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:11.758, 8. J Damon Hill (GB, Williams) 1:12.010, 9. J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:12.010, 10. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:12.010, 11. E Turvey (AUS, Minardi) 1:12.010, 12. R Puzos (USA, Tyrrell) 1:13.000, 13. J Trillat (FRA, Prost) 1:13.000, 14. J Verstappen (NLD, Stewart) 1:13.000, 15. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:13.000, 16. S Salo (Fin, Arrows) 1:17.000, 17. Wurz (AUT, Benetton) 1:18.000, 18. O Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:19.000, 19. O Panis (FRA, Prost) 20.000, 20. H Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 21.000, 21. J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 22.000, 22. P Durrant (GB, Arrows)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. M Schumacher 26, 2. Villeneuve 12, 3. Hakkinen 12, 4. Irvine 12, 5. Hill 12, 6. Herbert 12, 7. Damon Hill 12, 8. Verstappen 12, 9. Salo 12, 10. Trillat 12, 11. Puzos 12, 12. Coulthard 12, 13. Panis 12, 14. Herbert 12, 15. Hill 12, 16. Villeneuve 12, 17. Verstappen 12, 18. Puzos 12, 19. Panis 12, 20. Hill 12, 21. Herbert 12, 22. Turvey 12

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: September 27: Luxembourg (Netherlands), October 11: Fuji (Japan), October 25: Jerez (Spain)

Forget high-tech, just ask your grandmother

THE comforting and prophetic words that helped propel Michael Schumacher to victory at Monza came not from within the high-tech world of Formula One.

The two talk regularly and Schumacher called her for encouragement after the debacle at the Belgian Grand Prix two weeks ago. "She told me not to be downhearted about losing in Belgium," he said last night. "She said everything equals out and that I would probably get something back here. She was right."

Mika Hakkinen will need more than the advice of a grandparent to soothe the pain of losing a substantial championship lead with only two races left. He and Schumacher both must score

points at the Luxembourg Grand Prix in a fortnight's time to stay in the race.

Hakkinen said: "I am desperately disappointed, but there is no point in letting something like this get to you. You have to get on with the championship, I can still win it."

At least David Coulthard repaired his damaged relationship with the Ferrari fans, who had made him a target of abuse throughout the weekend after his crash with Schumacher. After his car broke down, Coulthard stopped to talk to the fans who had made rude gestures at him.

"Not one of them refused to shake my hand," he said. "I told them they were not being sporting and they stopped shouting. At least something good came from the weekend for me."

RUGBY LEAGUE: REILLY FACES AN ENORMOUS REBUILDING JOB

Leeds cut Giants down to size

Huddersfield Giants 16 Leeds Rhinos 72

IMAGINE Alex Ferguson taking the managerial seat at Southampton and you have an inkling of the size of move and task awaiting Malcolm Reilly when he takes up the coaching duties at Huddersfield Giants next season.

Tigers fight for deserved draw

A DRAMATIC injury-time penalty from Brad Davis, the Castleford scrum half, gave Castleford Tigers a deserved point in a thrilling 32-32 draw with St Helens at Knowsley Road.

former Great Britain coach will need a seeded stomach to watch the video of his new side in action yesterday.

Not only was it Huddersfield's heaviest defeat of the season — they have managed just two wins in 21 matches — it represented the worst performance in three years of the Super League by a home side, beating the 65-12 score by which Wigan hammered St Helens at Knowsley Road in May, 1997.

In the process of compiling the biggest win of the season at the expense of the side rooted to the bottom of the table since April, Testyn Harris, 22, passed 1,000 career

points with the fifth of ten successful conversions, since he began his career at Warrington at 17. He further contributed one of 13 tries with a personal haul of 24 points.

With the possible exception of Russell, Huddersfield's class act at hooker, Weston in the centre, Sturm at loose forward and Goulding, absent yesterday, Reilly must be looking at re-building the side. Having hired someone of his esteem, it would be pointless of Ken Davy, the Giants' millionaire chairman, to deny him the resources.

Having managed to give Wigan a competitive match two weeks ago, their risible

performance was all the harder to explain or excuse. Leeds barely broke sweat as they rattled up 40 first-half points in the space of 29 one-sided minutes.

There was a lull of 19 minutes before Harris restarted the one-way traffic and the Giants' defence collapsed altogether late on. Four times in the opening period, Arnold, the unfortunate Huddersfield full back, was caught flat-footed or out of position in the blur of passing blue shirts.

The first try in the third minute summed up the gearless defending, Farrell muscularly charging into space and then balletically stepping Arnold to release Rivett for the first of his two tries.

Huddersfield's thin red line, in the shape of Arnold, was again beaten with consummate ease by Blackburn, twice in seven minutes.

Singled out on Saturday, late in the first of Godden's brace with his first touch off the bench.

The youngster, of whom much is expected, took his own scoring chance well, as Cummings, with his seventeenth try of the season, and Newton joined in the spree.

SCORES: Huddersfield Giants: Test: 2, Russell, Sturm, Goulding, Weston, Leeds Rhinos: Trice, Blackburn, 2, Godden, 2, Reilly, 2, Curran, Harris, Hoyes, McDermott, Morley, Hewitt, St Helens: 10. Huddersfield Giants: 0, Arnold, 0, Singlet, C. Weston, P. Leighton, A. Chatterton, P. Cook, M. Mason, J. Hill, D. Russell, J. Hall, B. Richards, 0, King, M. Sturm, S. Giggles, F. Jackson, S. Byne, J. Buryan, J. Berry. LEEDS RHINOS: 1, Harris, 1, Rivett, 2, Blackburn, 2, Godden, 2, Curran, 2, Hoyes, 2, McDermott, 2, Morley, A. Fenwick, A. Hoy, S. Giggles, M. Giddens, M. St. Helens, 2, St Helens, J. Methun. Referee: R. Connolly (Wigan).

ATHLETICS: BACKLEY'S WIN CLOUDED BY TEAM DISAPPOINTMENT

Banks aims to play host in 2003

TONY BANKS, the Minister for Sport, wants Great Britain to host the 2003 world championships as the first big international sports event at the new national stadium at Wembley (David Powell writes). Banks, here to support the British team at the World Cup, said that the Government was keen to see the championships brought to Britain for the first time.

Thomas proves exception as Britons fail to rule

SCHOOL may not be out yet for Britain's athletes — just the Commonwealth Games to come in this most demanding of summer seasons — but there was a distinct end-of-term feel to the team performance on the last day of the World Cup here yesterday. At least Steve Backley and Iwan Thomas kept up appearances, even if their classmates had stuffed their ties into their back pockets.

Backley won the javelin and Thomas promoted Great Britain from fourth to second place on the last leg of the 4x400 metres relay. How Thomas's effort and determination, in the style and class of his individual 400 metres victory on Saturday, contrasted with some of his colleagues.

Dalton Grant laughed in the landing bed at his woeful failure in the high jump. Doug Turner conceded a point in the 200 metres by easing up before the finish and Colin Jackson seemed hardly to care that an official robbed him of victory in the 110 metres hurdles.



Jones: first defeat

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes Aston Villa, Arsenal, Charlton, Chelsea, Everton, Manchester United, Newcastle, Tottenham, Wimbledon, West Ham, and Wolves.

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SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes Aberdeen, Celtic, Dundee United, Dundee, Hearts, Motherwell, Rangers, and St. Johnstone.

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes various non-league and national league teams.

OVERSEAS

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes various overseas football leagues.

CONFERENCE

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes various conference football teams.

FIRST DIVISION

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SECOND DIVISION

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes various second division football teams.

THIRD DIVISION

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SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes various Scottish Premier League teams.

VERNONS NATIONAL LOTTERY GAME

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes various Vernon's National Lottery Game teams.

POOL CHECK

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes various Pool Check teams.

UNIBOND

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RYMAN

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DR MARTENS

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Large advertisement for 'Warrior' football boots, featuring the slogan 'Little's never sa...' and 'Nationwide Football League' branding.

Merson join the party as Villa enjoy the life at the top

Nationwide League: Hughes takes goal tally to eight while Bury hold Norwich

Ward saves sad Dyche from more punishment

Bristol City 1 West Bromwich Albion 3

By Russell Kempson

FEW CAN forget the FA Cup semi-final 18 months ago when gallant Chesterfield took Middlesbrough to a replay before bowing to the inevitable. It was one of the highlights of the humdrum career of Sean Dyche, the Chesterfield captain. Up hill and down dale, he was lauded throughout Derbyshire.

Times change, players move on and, yesterday, Dyche received another reminder that those euphoric, romantic days are long gone. The Bristol City captain had been tormented, almost to the point of ridicule, by Lee Hughes, the precocious young West Bromwich Albion striker, and was replaced in the 67th minute.

As he left the pitch the City supporters showed their displeasure by clapping on his way to the touchline. He responded in similarly sarcastic fashion, grimly addressing them back and grinning defiantly before taking his place on the substitute's bench.

It was an unsavoury and unnecessary reaction from the fans at Ashton Gate yet further evidence of the standards they now demand. What is good for David Beckham, in the FA Carling Premiership, is good for Dyche, in the Nationwide League first division. "It was very cruel," John Ward, the City manager, said. "Sean might feel I let him down by taking him off when what he needed was support. He was trying extremely hard, but

why should I have kept him out there suffering? I felt it was best to protect him."

A hile praising the contribution of Hughes, whose two goals took his tally for the season to eight, Denis Smith, the West Bromwich manager, also rallied to Dyche's cause. "He's a smashing lad and I won't criticise him," he said. The fact that Dyche's brother is married to Smith's niece is merely incidental.

City, without a League victory since promotion last season, were dismantled in a frantic opening spell in which neither defence appeared at ease. Dyche may have been the main culprit but his teammates were equally culpable as Hughes jabbed in a close range shot in the 10th minute and then added a second from Carbone's raking pass.

But for the agility of Welch and Miller, the goalkeepers, the half-time scoreline could have reached ridiculous proportions. "City could have had eight but we could have had 16," Smith said. "People enjoy watching us and we are always a threat going forward but we've got to be more careful at the back."

Quinn stretched to volley in West Bromwich's third goal, from Kilbane's cross in the 52nd minute, and Hughes should have completed his second hat-trick of the season when nodding another Kilbane centre against a post. "At 4-0, I might have felt we were safe," Smith said.

After Dyche's exit, City reduced the gap when Watts — his replacement — looped in a header with his first touch of the ball. The irony was not lost on the Dyche appreciation society, whose not-so-hidden agenda is gathering an unpleasant momentum.

West Bromwich reclaimed a place in the top six and City again retreated to lick their wounds. Ward has little money at his disposal but at least retains a sharp sense of humour in troubled times. "I've had two people in Europe looking at players this weekend," he said. "One is in Wales, the other is in Scotland."

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): K Welch — A Lopez, L Carey, S Dyche (sub: J Watts 67min), M Bell — S Murray (sub: C Clancy 57), D Torrey, M Howell (sub: G Goodridge 56), B Tennant — S Anderson, A Akinbiyi.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): A Miller — M Greenwood, P Roberts, L Carlisle, J van Elk — J Quinn, S Flynn, R Scholes, K Kilbane — L Hughes (sub: P Merson 87), F Collins (sub: M Scotland 72). Referee: S Barnes.



Dyche, left, who had a torrid time, is outjumped by Carbone



Akinbiyi, of Bristol City, is outnumbered three-to-one by West Bromwich Albion opponents. His team lost by the same scoreline at Ashton Gate

Bury's style proves so frustrating

Norwich City 0 Bury 0

By Stephen Wood

NORWICH City were not the first, and they will not be the last, to play straight into Bury's hands. At Carrow Road yesterday, the home side attacked in desperate fashion at times, while the fans mocked their small-time, northern rivals at others. Bury, their stubborn pride challenged, loved every minute of it and emerged with their third goalless draw from four away matches this season.

Bury will provide contrasts whenever they come calling in the first division of the Nationwide League but perhaps this encounter in East Anglia offered one of the strongest. Bryan Hamilton, director of football at Norwich, had previewed the game as being equivalent to Manchester United against Wimbledon, with no prizes for guessing which role Bury were to fulfil.

Hamilton's analogy was understandable, for Norwich have embraced the Continental approach to football since the summer, creating an academy and relying on the scientific approach. Their players, for example, wear wristbands during games to monitor heart rate, perspiration and water loss. Bury content themselves with old fashioned team spirit and organisation.

Their hard work was nearly undone in the third minute of injury time, when Norwich were awarded a penalty after Adrian Forbes, the substitute, went down under a challenge

from Andy Woodward. Craig Bellamy, who had successfully converted two sporadic goals in the previous home match against Queens Park Rangers, failed this time, as Dean Kiely, the Bury goalkeeper, dove low to his left to hold on to the shot.

That incident made for an interesting finale to a game which otherwise only threatened to entertain. Dean Barrick, the Bury wing back, had tried to interfere with Bellamy's penalty by scuffling the grass around the spot, while Neil Warnock, the visitors' manager, approached Forbes at the 6-

nal whistle with a few choice words. Warnock felt that Forbes had dived and said: "It was never a penalty and I would have booked Forbes for his conduct. The referee could not wait to blow up, although I think he will be embarrassed when he sees it again."

Warnock was on the shortlist for the vacant manager's job at Norwich during the summer and he remains convinced that they will be among the teams promoted to the Premiership at the end of the season.

If Bruce Rioch, the man who did succeed Mike Walker, can get his

players to think more clearly when the goal is in sight, they have a good chance.

Darren Eadie and Lee Marshall rushed good opportunities in the first half during which Bury, on their infrequent excursions into Norwich territory, looked more likely to score.

Laurent D'Jaffo, their striker from France, hit a post from 25 yards and Andy Preece should have done better in a one-on-one situation with Andy Marshall, the Norwich goalkeeper.

Craig Fleming's volley from a corner five minutes after half-time narrowly cleared the bar but, thereafter, Norwich lost their way until the penalty award, a frustrating period of play made worse when Matt Jackson, the club captain, was carried off on a stretcher after a collision with Lennie Johnstone. Jackson was taken to hospital for X-rays on his ankle, but there was no break.

Although Norwich were deprived of their 100 per cent home record, the game saw Kiely keep his sixth clean sheet in seven league outings. The only goal he has conceded so far this season has been a penalty. It is the impressive handling and confident judgement he provides that enables Bury to thrive.

The players congratulated each other at the end as if they had won, and walked off to more boos from the home supporters. Maybe their approach will, ultimately, be admired.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): A Marshall — O Suten, C Fleming, M Jackson (sub: V Segura, 53min), C Lowndes, D Morrison (sub: A Forbes, 81), J Marshall, P Grant, O Gadey — J Roberts, C Bellamy.

BURY (4-4-3): O Kiely — C Lucketti, S Redmond, C Swales, A Woodward, M Dowie, L Johnstone, O Barrick — R Matthews (sub: T Ellis, 87), L D'Jaffo, A Preece. Referee: B Knight.

McCann to be told Celtic fans' facts of life

By Phil Gordon

FOOTBALL'S embrace of the money men in the last seven days may be jilted for something more earthy in Glasgow this afternoon. Fergus McCann, the Celtic chairman, seems certain to discover that the fact of life, as the fans see it, is all about doing the business on the pitch, not off it.

Few company figureheads would expect a rough ride when reporting increased turnover, improved profits and the delivery of two pivotal targets (stadium and silverware), but that is what McCann is facing at Celts' AGM.

Shareholders may be impressed with figures but for supporters the bottom line is their team, and a minor demonstration outside Celtic Park after Saturday's stuttering 1-1 draw with Kilmarnock hinted at the storm awaiting McCann.

In a nutshell, many of the Scottish champion's followers will look beyond the £27.8 million turnover and the £5 million profit, as well as the completion of Britain's largest club stadium, and focus on the fact that not a single penny was spent on improving the squad over the summer.

Celtic are now out of the Champions League and limping badly in domestic matters. Jerome Varaille's goal for Kilmarnock negating Regi Binkler's fine volley to leave Celtic with just eight points.

The supporters who handed over £17 million in season ticket money want to know the reasons why. McCann was jeered again on Saturday, but he is not at the eye of the storm. That is reserved for Jack Brown, the general manager, whose remit was to negotiate transfers, deal with the financial side of players' employment and deliver a new coach. In most of these issues, Brown has been less than successful.

Scotland's blue-chip football club, Rangers, also discovered at Tannadice that wealth does not equate to power. The team which had £30 million spent on it over the summer failed to break down a patchwork but resilient Duodec United side, whose new manager, Paul Sturrock, greeted the 0-0 draw as a successful baptism.

"Considering I lost four goals to Rangers with St Johnstone a fortnight ago, this has to be a pleasing result," he said.

Hearts received a blow to their morale before their Cup Winners' Cup tie with Real Mallorca in Edinburgh from the 2-0 home defeat to Dundee, the day's only victors. Dariusz Adamczak, the Polish midfielder, who once scored against England and has moved for over £2 million in transfer fees but has looked like a shadow of that player in Scotland, scored both goals.

The 1-1 draws at Pittodrie, where Aberdeen and Motherwell shared the points, at St Johnstone, against Dumfries, only proved that almost everyone in football has a point to make.

Little's men will never say dye

Stoke City 1 Millwall 0

By Pat Gibson

THE RED and white stripes of Stoke City were obviously a superior quality. While they remained proud and distinctive to the end, the blue of Millwall ran so badly in the face of the halitosis which lashed the Britannia Stadium, that their white shorts soon acquired a pastel tint.

So much for the shirts. As for the football, it was much more difficult to discern why Stoke have now opened up a healthy four-point lead at the top of the Nationwide League Second Division and left Millwall palely loitering in the bottom half of the table.

In fact, Millwall could well have won this game. They had soaked up everything that Stoke could pour on them rather better than their kit had absorbed the afternoon downpours for the best part of 90 minutes when they were presented with two wonderful opportunities to score themselves.

First, Sigurdsson hit a dreadful back pass straight to Shaw whose shot rebounded off Muggleton's knees when a square ball would have enabled Harris to put the ball into an empty net. Then Neil was allowed to head Carter's cross invitingly to Harris only six yards out but he volleyed over the bar.

Those missed chances named out to be Millwall's undoing. Instead of closing down the game and settling for the point they had earned when the referee's assistant held up the board show three minutes of stoppage time remaining,

they continued to look for a winner and left themselves open to Stoke's last desperate attack.

Spink conceded a corner when Lightbourne's shot squirmed off his upstretched hands and over the bar. When it came across, Thorne headed back from beyond the far post and Lightbourne forced the ball over the line with his head, despite Lavin's frantic attempt to clear.

Brian Little, the Stoke manager, who led his new club to a record six successive victories before their defeat against Fulham last week, was plainly relieved. "We were very fortunate again, we accept that, but we have learned a good lesson here."

"When it's nil-nil with 10 minutes to go and you're not playing especially well, the first priority, even at home, if you get too carried away, you can lose what you've already got. Millwall would be thinking that."

Stokes' problems could be traced to the absence of their influential wing backs, Short, who keeled over with a virus infection at Fulham and was rested on medical advice, and Small, who has an ankle injury.

It was only when they changed the system that has served them so well and sent on a third striker in Crowe, that they began to create some decent chances.

Even so, Millwall deserved to salvage something from their bad shirt day. STOKES CITY (5-3-2): C Muggleton — P Robinson, L Sigurdsson, S Woods, J Wright, R Halliday (sub: D Gomez, 81 min) — G Kilgallon, D O'Shaughnessy, K Keen — K Lightbourne, P Thorne. MILLWALL (4-4-3): G Lavin, S Mullen (sub: S Nathaniel, R Ryan) — J Carter, P Flanagan, T Carril (sub: M Bircham, 49), L Neil — N Harris. Referee: F Stratton.

Talbot's fears are justified

Non-League Football By Walter Gammie

BRIAN Talbot has repeatedly sounded notes of caution at reading too much into Rushden and Diamonds' all conquering start to the Football Conference season.

As Diamonds' was reeling off seven successive victories to start their campaign, Talbot's approach seemed scarcely justified, but a 3-2 home defeat by Telford United, previously without a win, on Saturday after a 1-1 draw at Dover on Tuesday have taken the sparkle off the Diamonds'.

Goals by Adrian Foster, his tenth of the season, and Darren Collins seemed to have put Rushden in charge at half-time after Scott Huckerby, brother of Darren, had volleyed Telford in front.

Telford's decision to pair Steve Palmer and Huckerby in attack then paid off as Palmer scored twice to secure a notable victory for the club that was deprived from relegation last season only by the expulsion of Slough Town.

The chief beneficiary of Rushden's stumble was Cheltenham Town, who won 2-1 at Kingstoman. Working also broke their duck with a 3-0 victory at Leek Town that helped to ease the pressure on John McGovern, their manager.

A crowd of 2,601 at the Recreation Ground saw Aldershot Town take over at the top of the Ryman League Premier Division after a 4-3 victory over Dagenham and Redbridge, while a fifth successive home win 3-1 over Altrincham kept Worktop on top of the UniBond League in their impressive unbeaten start.

Noades adds to list of excuses

Brentford 0 Rotherham United 3

By Justine Roberts

THE PROBLEM with being owner, chairman and manager of a football club is that when things go wrong it's hard to shift the blame elsewhere. But Ron Noades, the man who fulfils this tripartite role at Brentford, is not one to shrink a challenge.

In Saturday's programme notes, he blamed his team's second-half collapse at Torquay in midweek on his inability to view the game clearly because he wasn't allocated a seat in the dug out.

"The view was less than satisfactory and meant that we were at a severe disadvantage as we were unable to see what was causing us problems," the former Crystal Palace owner explained.

On Saturday there were no such visibility problems for the Brentford supremo, but after watching Rotherham run his team ragged for most of the game, he might have wished there actually had been.

Those who anticipated a more penitent Noades, however, were to be disappointed. Contribution may be in vogue for American presidents, but it's not Noades' style.

Instead, he put Brentford's sorry performance down to the team saving themselves for the forthcoming Worthington Cup tie against Tottenham. "I'm not worried about anything," he barked, "except maybe the fans and the abuse you get."

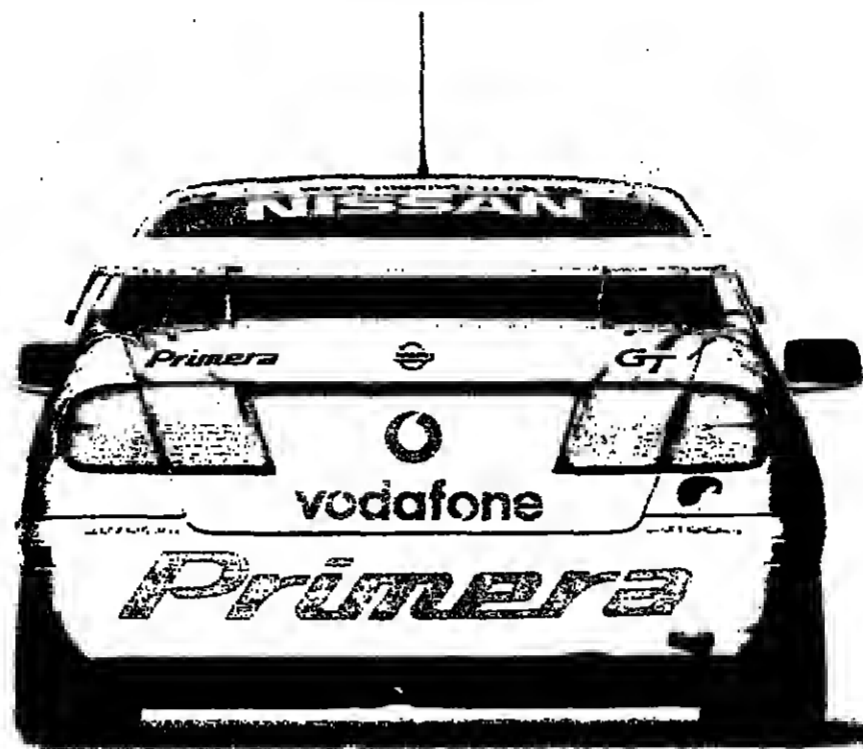
If his team continues to be outplayed at home as badly as it was on Saturday, his skin

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CRICKET

Boon for Surrey as victory sets up title decider

IF THE means were dubious, the outcome was undeniably appropriate. Surrey, who led the Britannic Assurance county championship from May into September, contrived a victory that looked beyond them at Chester-le-Street on Saturday, ensuring that the title will be decided by a virtual play-off at the Oval this week.

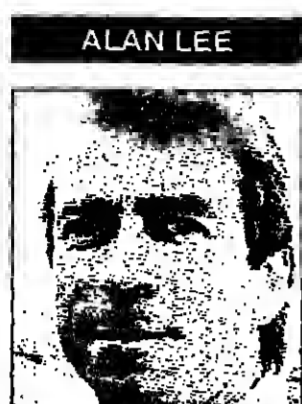
Adam Hoolioke, for whom this has been a mortifying summer, employed all his powers of charm, negotiation and motivation on an extraordinary day at the Riverside. Surrey, apparently scuppered by the weather, managed to fiddle a finish by setting Durham a target of 213 and bowling them out for 91.

The upshot is a concluding fixture between Surrey and Leicestershire, starting on Thursday, that had long held the promise of being a title eliminator yet looked, for much of last week, to be losing its impact. Now, though not quite a guaranteed winner-takes-all, it is a combustible, fortuitous finale to what has been a largely disappointing championship.

Victory for Leicestershire would make them champions for the second time in three years. Surrey, though, may not only need to win but also to garner sufficient bonus points to be sure of holding off the persistent challenge of Lancashire.

It is the climax that all concerned will deem fitting and it may do much to camouflage the dire standards and pervasive fatalism that have been rife in the latter stages of this season. It has also, however, revived two recurring issues of county cricket — the validity of contrived finishes and the role of overseas players.

Leicestershire, who have suffered from rain more than



ALAN LEE
Championship Commentary

any other county through the two seasons since their last title, may feel aggrieved that Surrey were able to rescue a finish with the unlikely convenience of that most flinty Australian, David Boon. Once the dressing-room deal had been struck, it was achieved very unattractively, first through an over of dross from Jonathan Batty, the Surrey wicketkeeper, and then by almost an hour of help-yourself lobs from two of Durham's non-bowlers, including Boon himself.

Boon was not going soft in

TABLE with columns for P, W, L, O, R, B, Pts and lists of teams and their statistics.

the head. Surrey's desperation left him holding the ace and the target he settled for seemed a generous one, especially when spread over 61 overs. That it did not turn out that way was because of some sprightly seam bowling from Joey Benjamin and a pitch that had sprouted demons.

Benjamin, 37, had taken only 14 championship wickets in six games and would not have been playing if Alex Tudor, England's Ashes wild card, had been fit. The irony is stark, for it was Benjamin who was the surprise fast-bowling inclusion on the last Australia tour and he was a complete flop. On Saturday, he took six for 35, but it has to be asked if he should have had the opportunity.

In the bad old days of three-day cricket, fake bowling was commonplace. The extra day has almost eliminated the mendacity and the need, but on a day like this, with so much at stake, few could blame Hoolioke for trying, nor Boon for hoping to profit. Saqlain Mushtaq did not take a wicket in the match and did not even bowl in the second innings. It was not a fitting farewell as he departs for Toronto to join the Pakistan team in the spurious Sahara Cup. The enforced defection of an overseas player before a game in which he might have won his side the title is another blow to a system damaged beyond repair.

There is too much international cricket played now for the overseas player to function satisfactorily and it is high time the counties acknowledged it. The reversal of the moratorium, planned for next year, was a scandal and will lead to the most striking examples yet of foreign players collecting fat cheques for a disproportionately brief stay.



Wasim celebrates the dismissal of Gallian on the way to a five-wicket haul during Lancashire's victory at Trent Bridge

Wasim bids glorious farewell

TRENT BRIDGE: Lancashire (21pts) beat Nottinghamshire (4pts) by 289 runs

WASIM AKRAM is leaving Lancashire in glory. The Pakistan all-rounder, who was released by the club last week, won this game yesterday off his own bat — and with the ball. First, he extended his innings from 28 to 155, his first championship hundred for five years. Then he skilted out five Nottinghamshire batsmen, the last three comprehensively bowled, to complete Lancashire's fifth successive victory.

Should Lancashire make it six when they play Hampshire at Old Trafford later this week and take 25 points, and should Leicestershire draw their game with Surrey at the Oval, Lancashire will win the county championship outright for the first time since 1934. Surrey can still finish top, of course. It promises to be a fascinating week.

Wasim could be excused for not knowing quite what is

going on at the moment. Last week, he led Lancashire to two one-day trophies, in successive days, and promptly found himself implicated in the latest match-fixing story to emerge from Pakistan. His departure from Lancashire was less painful.

What a way he has chosen to go. Batting at No 8, he smashed five sixes and 14

fours in his innings, of which 122 came before lunch yesterday. Lancashire, who began the day 296 ahead, with three wickets in hand, were able to bat into the afternoon before Wasim struck a catch to the square leg boundary.

Keedy contributed four singles to a last-wicket stand of 97 as Wasim hit the ball wherever he liked against

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE with columns for innings, runs, wickets, and player names.

Essex bow out on a low note

LEICESTER (Essex won the toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Essex by 125 runs

ESSEX appeared an imitation of the side that led the Axa League table by six points two-thirds of the way into the campaign as they ended the season with a third successive defeat (Richard Hobson writes). Victory earned Leicestershire a top-four finish and prize-money of £5,500.

The opening overs of the Essex reply recalled the start to the Benson and Hedges Cup final, when Prichard, in particular, took advantage of loose Leicestershire bowling to seize the initiative. On this occasion, however, the fall of the first wicket heralded an alarming collapse against a theoretically weaker attack.

From being 45 for nought in the seventh over, Essex plummeted to 91 all out as Ormond and Simmons discovered a better line and length. Mason, the off spinner, then joined the attack to return figures of four for 12, his best in the competition, with the last six wickets realising only 15 runs.

McLean atones for early bowling errors

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire (4pts) beat Hampshire by four runs

WORCESTERSHIRE achieved a place to the first division of the forthcoming national league by dint of bowling out Hampshire for 177 on the kind of slow pitch that makes timing the ball an exceedingly difficult task (Ivo Tennant writes). It was as well for the spectators and television viewers that there was some diverting hitting late in the day from Nixon McLean.

Although this did not quite win the match, it atoned, in part, for the nine wickets McLean conceded in a relatively expensive spell. Connor took three wickets in a Worcestershire innings that never properly got going.

Hick made 32 off 33 balls and there were useful contributions from Lampitt and Haynes. Hampshire made a prophetic start. Smith, on his 35th birthday, striking the ball as cleanly as any specialist batsman. Illingworth, however, had him well held by Hick during a spell in which he took three significant wickets.

Knight display puts Warwickshire second

HEADINGLEY (Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire (4pts) beat Yorkshire by five wickets

NICK KNIGHT stole the show on the final appearance of Harold "Dickie" Bird, the inimitable umpire, in county cricket, calling on all his experience as a specialist one-day opener to lift Warwickshire into second place in the E22,000 in prize-money (Pat Gibson writes).

It looked as though Warwickshire were going to finish empty-handed when they slipped to 125 for five in pursuit of a target of 192 on an awkward pitch, but Knight was then joined by Ashley Giles in a partnership of 67 in 11 overs that swept them to

Middlesex fare badly on day of farewells

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Middlesex by 22 runs

IT was a day for farewells at Lord's yesterday (Jack Bailey writes). Mike Gatting's retirement after 372 championship appearances as a Middlesex player was marked by the presentation of a silver claret jug to the old boy, who was suitably touched.

Farewell, too, to the old Lord's press box after 40-odd years. It was also the end of the Axa 40-over league. As a result of this match, Gloucestershire will play in the first division and Middlesex in the second when the national league begins next year.

So this game had a touch of spice that was reflected in the approach of both teams.

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THE TIMES... Dale and Powell maintain late run... GRE... at t... is b... dec... Dickie Bird... A TYPICAL DEBAST... TOKEN 7

Going out at the top is best of decisions

As he retires from first-class cricket, Dickie Bird looks back at some of the highlights and low points of his outstanding umpiring career



Final curtain: Bird prepares to take his leave at Headingley this week

A TYPICAL DISASTER

ALTHOUGH I was sad not to be involved with international cricket myself any longer, I really enjoyed going round the county circuit on a son of farewell tour in 1997, shaking hands with all my old friends, wishing them well and saying my goodbyes.

One day, however, I stayed at the ground rather longer than I intended. Sussex were playing Essex at Hove and at the end of the day's play I came off the field, had a shower, changed and decided to wind down for a while in the umpires' room before making my way to the hotel where I was staying. David Constant was standing with me for that match and he left as soon as he had changed, taking the umpires' room key with him and locking the door as he went out. That was not a problem, because I had told him I would make my way out through the back door, which led into the area where the groundsman kept his mower, cutters, rollers etc.

However, when I eventually made my way through the back to the outer door, it was locked. Peter Eaton, the head groundsman, who would undoubtedly have a key, had long since gone. So had the girl on the switchboard. So had all the office staff. Everybody had gone. Except Dickie Bird. And he was locked in. I

spent more than two hours in there, banging on the door and shouting: "Help! Help! Let me out. Let me out." It was ten past nine when the security guards finally heard me as they did their rounds. Was I relieved when they released me? I thought I was going to have to spend the entire night in there - and I hadn't even got a toothbrush.

The next day, when Conny and I walked out at five minutes to 11, all the Essex players lined up and clapped me on to the field. Obviously, the story had got round. You simply can't keep anything quiet in cricket circles.

I've been at grounds very early in the morning, as you well know, but that was the latest I'd stayed on at night - except, of course, for the 1975 World Cup final between Australia and the West Indies at Lord's, when they were still playing at five minutes to nine.

IN BED? NOT LIKELY

I ONCE appeared on *The Big Breakfast* and they wanted to interview me in bed with a fellow called Lily Savage.

"No way," I said. They argued: "But we've interviewed Gary Lineker, Frank Bruno and your mate Ian Botham on that bed and they had no objection."

I said: "Well, you're not getting Dickie Bird in there. I can tell you that now. I'm not go-

ing to leap into bed with a bloke dressed up in a wig and a nightie and wearing lashings of make-up. If you want to interview me, then you'll have to do it while I'm sitting on a chair. Otherwise, I'm taking the train back to Barnsley." So that's what they did. I wasn't going to stand for any of that in-the-bed nonsense.

THE AUSTRALIANS

I STOOD at Tests featuring the Australians in the early Seventies, when Ian Chappell was captain. They had a great side in those days, including those two magnificent fast bowlers, Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, with Max Walker a very fine support bowler. Variety was provided by Ashley Mallett, one of the best off spinners at the time. With those two top-notch brothers, the Chappells, in the middle order, and a great wicketkeeper in Rodney Marsh, there was a solid backbone to a superb team.

I have always admired the Australian approach to the game. They are always so totally dedicated. You can never write them off, they are so competitive.

People have complained to me about the Aussies' sledging, but I can say that I have had no problems whatsoever with that from any Australian Test player. I treated them as professional men and found

THAT JAMAICA PITCH

AT THE first Test in Jamaica last winter, which was abandoned because of the poor state of the pitch, I felt very sorry for the people from England who had paid a lot of money to go all that way to watch a Test match, only for it to be called off.

I do not blame the West Indian authorities, though, and certainly not the groundstaff. It was a re-aid pitch and they came unstuck with it. You can never tell in such situations. Some pitches can look really rough before a Test and yet play magnificently, but on this one there was a remarkable amount of uneven bounce.

If I had been umpiring, I would have allowed play to go on a little bit longer - until the ball got soft - then I would have had another look at how the pitch was playing. However, to be fair, you have to take into consideration the safety of the players. That is the prime concern and that is what the umpires did. They also called the two captains and the match referee into their deliberations and all were agreed that they had to come off.

Looking back, it would have been better to play the Test on a pitch that had not been re-aid. They always say you should leave a new pitch for

four or five years to settle. On the other hand, the pitch at Port of Spain, Trinidad, which had also been re-aid, developed into a very good one after "doing a bit" early on and the last two pitches, in Barbados and Antigua, were two of the best I've ever seen.

UMPIRE'S FAREWELL

AT THE end of that 1997 season, I received a letter from the England and Wales Cricket Board congratulating me on my standard of umpiring and asking me to stay on for another year. My marks had been tremendous and I honestly thought that I had umpired as well as ever. That got me to thinking that maybe I had made a mistake. Maybe I had retired from international cricket too soon. Maybe I should have gone out against Australia in the summer of 1997.

However, life is all ifs and buts. I could have gone on, had a stinker of a season and made a fool of myself. As it is, the last Test I did - England v India at Lord's - was one of the best I have ever done from an umpiring point of view, so I went out on a high note, at the top and at Lord's, just like I always wanted.

© Dickie Bird

Extracts from *Dickie Bird: My Autobiography* (£6.99 paperback, published by Hodder and Stoughton).

Stay-in-bed Tudor must prove he can rise to the occasion

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Quite the funniest thing this early autumn, apart from Mark Nicholas's appalling attempt to play the "air guitar" at Willis's summer shindig, was the startling confession of young Alex Tudor. The ferociously fast Surrey bowler heard of his selection for the Australia tour as he was lolling under the covers.

"I was in bed," our brilliant new pace bowler said, "and my dad told me to turn on the television." Hang on a minute. The England team was announced at 10.30am and Tudor was still in bed? Are we to take it that this young chap, not yet 21, couldn't be bothered to turn back the duvet and greet the morning when such good news was imminent? This followed Ben Hollis' tipping up 50 minutes late for a net before the Oval Test.

No matter what one thinks of Tudor's selection, and it seems a bit dicey given his fitness record, this confession really is an eye-opener. "I have to grab the opportunity and show what I can do," young Tudor said. By heck, lad, you're learning! The first thing you can do is to get up with the birds - unless you've had a night on the tiles, in which case you can lie in until 9am.

I don't think I'm breaching any diplomatic secrets if I reveal exclusively that young men have it much too easy these days. Yehudi Menuhin, once described by George Steiner as "the best-loved performer in the history of the performing arts", still practises the fiddle three hours every day - and he's almost as old as Bradman.

David Suchet, who is shortly to play Salieri in Peter Hall's revival of *Amadeus*, reckoned it took him 375 hours to learn his lines. Three hundred and seventy five hours! Why, even Michael Atherton could make a century in that time. Just remember that the next time some dimwit calls actors "luvvies". But young Tudor, fagged with the exhaustion of bowling 184 overs this

ing bowler. Injury held him back and prevented him from developing into the bowler his admirers wanted him to be.

There was some talk of him getting the nod for Australia this time, but it was a bit fanciful, really. His opportunity came and went, as opportunities tend to. They cannot be redeemed years later, like insurance policies.

The last Ashes party included Martin McCague, who was - is - capable of bowling pretty quickly. He fell by the wayside, as have Richard Johnson and Glen Chapple, who were earmarked for stardom at an early age. Chris Lewis we know about. Alan Ward, Ken Shuttleworth, Paul Jarvis - it's a long list.

Every now and then, something clicks. Both Willis was plucked out of obscurity in 1970 to go to Australia and was not significantly harmed by early promotion. But the liner of broken English bowlers is almost as numerous as the wreckage on Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

Bob Cottam, the England bowling coach, is making noises about Tudor's pace and willingness to learn. He may be right. Tudor may explode all over Australia - but if he comes home crooked, wicketless and a bit shell-shocked, don't say I didn't warn you.



Morning stretch: Tudor, the late-rising England recruit

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TOKEN 7

Vine strikes out in world of tenpin bowling

I used to go tenpin bowling in the Malay sula myself, of played across the way from Malaysia, in a pleasant mood. I always thought tenpin bowling was a pleasantly raff sort of pastime rather than a sport — dominos standing up — and the fact that people would bring bottles of Tiger and Anchor beer to your lane as you bowled only confirmed this, making it a thoroughly pleasant way to work up an appetite for one of those curries served on a banana leaf in the Upper Serangoon Road.

Was that the most delicious food in the world? More about food in a moment, but in the lanes alongside me and my pals at the bowling alley, we were regarded with amused contempt. For we knew nothing of the conventions, still less of the spiritual value of what we were doing. It was as if we had turned up to play golf at St Andrews dressed as a pantomime horse, or we had turned up full of the drunken giggles at a Zen archery competition.

For all around us, they were putting their hears and their souls into these balls, these lanes, these pins. And it was not funny to watch: it was really rather wonderful, in its way. I was passing the time,

this being a pastime they were taking part in serious sport. More, the *jogo bonito* — the beautiful game.

And they made such beautiful shapes, perhaps even doing so a trifle self-consciously, but there are plenty of batsmen whose cover drive is a thing of self-conscious beauty. The Tenpin Bowler: the great marble masterpiece that Rodin never carved. He really should have done: the follow-through, the final flourish of the wrist, the matador swerve of the hips. It was lovely to watch and no doubt lowlevel still to do.

And it was so often accompanied by the fanfare of falling pins, the tenpin bowler's life-rattle. So it was inevitable that they should introduce tenpin



bowling when the Commonwealth Games came to Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysians being filled with the same devotional intensity for the game.

The game has two great attractions for the participants: (1) it is very easy and (2) it is very difficult. The ultimate achievement in the game is a strike. Well, I can do that. Not everyone can throw a 180 at darts or put all five in the

ten-rings in target-shooting. But anyone can roll a strike: all the pins down at once, rattle-rattle, hurrah-hurrah, time for a Tiger.

But rolling 12 consecutive strikes, the perfect game, 300 points: only the very best do that. This is at the same time a game of banal simplicity and vast complexity.

Another great charm, of course, is that you don't have to be all that fit to play, or even

to be among the very best. Not as fit as you need to be to, say, run a marathon in two hours ten, or 100 metres in even time.

All the same, it was rather ungalant of David Vine, on *Sunday Grandstand*, to talk about Gemma Burden that way. "She tells me that she's been too frightened to try Malaysian food," he said. (Tell her you used to get a mean banana-leaf curry in Jalan Brickfields.) But then he added: "But she's been a regular in the burger bar!"

It must be dreadful to be a television commentator: that awful moment when, quite by accident, you say exactly what you are thinking. Gemma — I don't wish to be ungalant myself — unquestionably has the air of a regular in burger

bars, even in parts of the world other than Kuala Lumpur. In fact, she has every appearance of being a lady who loves burger bars not wisely, but too well.

She can chuck that cannonball about the place all right, though, and she and Pauline Buck, her partner, another who is not, I think a total stranger to burger bars, bowled England to a bronze medal.

Malaysia, second in the women's doubles behind Australia — "and they call Cara Jane Honeychurch the Victoria Dynamol" — won the men's doubles with Kenny Ang and the controversial selection, Ben Heng. "Listen to the atmosphere!"

It was a poor event for

television, in truth, there being no confrontation in the format. They were not helped by a computer that could only show two digits at a time, poor show in a sport that has its being in the hundreds. I mustn't tease poor old Vine too much: he was working hard with the odds stacked against him.

And anyway, I always love it when a sport becomes, for a brief moment, a cult success, as curling (remember Roaring Kirsty Hay?) did in the Winter Olympic Games in February. It is all too easy to mock tenpin bowling and curling (which is exactly why I have done, of course), but there is no escaping the moral: either all sports are silly, or none is. Me — well, as usual, I'm off to practise my dressage.

Journey towards domination of world sport continues at Commonwealth Games in Malaysia

Australians advance under gold standard

WHEN the Great Book was written, the prevailing line was that the meek would inherit the earth. But that was before our Australian cousins got going. Last night in Kuala Lumpur, they so dominated the Commonwealth Games that green and gold, particularly around the pool, where Australia were making a clean sweep with world-record performances, were the only colours.



wealth Games in Victoria, more than a third of those available. They are up for at least 100 this time.

Sue Rolph, a game lass from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, had the composure, the deep addiction to training and the stamina to beat Susie O'Neill, Australia's "water maiden", for the first thrilling gold, in the 100 metres freestyle. To do that, she withstood not only the competition, not merely the intimidation, but also temperatures into the high 30s centigrade and in humidity close to 100 per cent.

The England men gymnasts showed the same brand of perverse stubbornness in eclipsing Australia for the team gold at the weekend. They did it indomitably, despite losing Andrew Atherton, whose knee had dislocated on a harsh landing from the vault last month, and despite Lee McDermott having to feather his every dismount from the apparatus because he, too, had his right knee reconstructed in January and will require arthroscopic surgery when he returns.

"We haven't finished with the medals yet," Craig Heap, the ebullient gymnastics team captain, said last night. "There's more to come. And we are all English, and proud of it, so we don't mind that the Aussies have taken two Russians on their team."

The gymnasts and Rolph know full well that they are fighting against a system. The Canberra Institute of Sport has developed and served Australia for more than a decade and, even with £460 million of lottery money allocated for sport in Great Britain, that is for everything from administra-



Atherton impresses on the pommel horse on the way to a team gold with England at the Games in Kuala Lumpur

As *Advance Australia* Fair rings incessantly out in the spectacular arenas here, it becomes apparent that the Australians are prepared to do the work, to pay the price and to compete with everything in their means to advance towards the greater domination, at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, and to take on allcomers, all supposed superpowers, of sporting competition.

When you look at Ian Thorpe, the Sydney phenomenon, a 15-year-old who takes size 17 shoes, you have to fear that there is something in the breeding Down Under. When you consider that Australia is spending £1.65 billion for the Olympics and setting aside £50 million for the preparation of athletes alone, you can see that Kuala Lumpur happens to be just a nice little stepping-stone on the way.

The Australians, winning at all costs, grow daily like Americans. They talk of their targets being "awesome", they describe this event as "the meek" and, lest we doubt it, they say that they are "up for it, mate".

It takes special competitiveness to beat them. Australia won 87 gold medals at the 1994 Common-

wealth Games in Victoria, more than a third of those available. They are up for at least 100 this time.

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tion to improvement of facilities since 1994. Heap suggested that it will take a further decade before British athletes are prepared on a par with the Australians.

Jay Sweet, another Australian, prevailed in the 184-kilometre cycling road race, but only by the space of a wheel: his great contest

was not only with battle cramp, which locked up his legs in the cruel midday heat, but also to see off Nor Eifandy Rosli, of Malaysia, who was defying a century of tradition to win the first cycling medal that his country has taken at any leading event. He is 31, the son of a racing cyclist and he had

not even finished the road race at the Commonwealth Games in Canada.

"I had to keep reminding myself that I could compete against a team of international cyclists and that if I could beat them, perhaps other Malaysian athletes could also do it," Eifandy said. "We

should not think too highly of the foreign athletes."

In this one small, slight Malaysian, we had personification of the Games slogan: "Malaysia Boleh" — Malaysia Can.

It is an expression of human spirit, something for which sport was devised. Looking back to that

defence forces, and an education at Harvard Business School. And behind him there are 8,057 members of the armed forces involved in organising and securing these first Commonwealth Games on the continent of Asia.

A pity, then, that the resourcefulness and smoothness displayed on the night of the opening ceremony has disintegrated. The next morning, some 300 people who arrived with tickets for the swimming events were locked out for two hours because someone forgot that the heats began at 9 o'clock.

Yesterday, thousands were made to queue in the heat, humidity and threatening rain for another two hours, this time because the Prime Minister and the king wished to see the gymnastics — but they could not make the starting time and so, for the convenience of celebrities, Malaysia's Games were put back two hours without notice being given.

Yes, Malaysia can. Certainly Australia will and all of us, it seems, must bear with it while we wait for the periodic moments of high human endeavour transcending the timelessness and, sometimes, the carelessness of life in the tropics.

wonderful opening night of the Games, this spirit had manifested itself 100,000 times. In a land whose Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad, has summarily sacked his heir apparent, a land groping against the recession of Asian currencies, it was indeed remarkable evidence that their country can.

Perhaps we never should have doubted it, for whereas Australia is showing the fruits of injecting massive resources into sport, Malaysia hopes to use sport to establish a new image around the globe.

"Everyone knows about Singapore," one leading organiser said, "but they never seemed to think that Malaysia, for so long a colony within the Commonwealth, could organise on this scale."

Behind that efficiency is the executive chairman of Sukom Ninety Eight, the organising committee. The retired general, Tan Sri Hashim Mohd Ali, trained at Sandhurst, had a military background spanning 38 years, culminating as chief of the

"They are showing the fruits of having injected huge resources into their sport"

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SPORTS LETTERS

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Lessons to be learned

From Mr A Abehawardene

Sir, England seem to have lost more than a Test Match at the Oval. Even before the result, excuses for a humiliation were already being discussed and distributed. This has all followed a familiar pattern: lose a match or series and then hype up the possibility of unfair play. Unsuitable pitches and dubious bowling actions have this time usurped the previous diet of ball-tampering and questionable umpiring decisions.

A lot could have been learned by David Lloyd from England's other visitors this summer. South Africa, particularly Hansie Cronje and Jonty Rhodes, who, in defeat, were even though they could justify have complained about some of the close umpiring decisions that they experienced over their five-match series. It was significant that Alec Stewart was left to comment on the Oval defeat, whilst Lloyd was conspicuous by his absence.

The fact that Sri Lanka may have outclassed, outplayed and outthought their opposition has been somewhat ig-

nored by the England coach. This should not come as a surprise if the calibre of the teams is analysed. It is debatable if any of England's current crop would claim a single place in a World Cricket XI, while Sri Lanka could arguably press for at least three places with the likes of Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralitharan.

To this list should be added the considerable tactical prowess of Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, who could now claim to be the best leader both on and off the field in world cricket. Not only has he revolutionised the one-day game by winning the World Cup and convincingly maintained that form in different conditions around the globe, but he is now about to turn on his head the conventional wisdom of the five-day game.

To put the opposition in on a flat pitch was judged as a suicidal or, at best, a negative move by every cricket commentator, yet, by the end of even the third day's play, when the game's balance of power irrevocably shifted, Ranatunga had proved that he had conclusively outmanoeuvred not only his opposite number, but also the pundits.

By playing to the strengths of his team, he masterminded an outrageous strategy and

Easy on the eye and tough enough for rugby

From Mr P Lovatt

Sir, I found John Bryant's article on contact lenses in sport (Bryant's Eye, September 3) most interesting. I had to wear spectacles from a very early age and, on the advice of my rugby coach, was fitted with haptic lenses as an 11-year-old in 1964. These enabled me to play rugby to a county standard and were still doing sterling service 20 years later, when I transferred to soft lenses.

Haptic lenses were some of the earliest protective equipment available to players. I heard that such a lens had once saved a miner's

decisively turned the screw on his beleaguered opposite number. The name of Ranatunga can rank alongside the post-war great captains Richie Benaud, Ray Illingworth, Ian Chappell, Clive Lloyd, Mike Brearley and Imran Khan.

If nothing else was learned over the five days, the brand of entertaining cricket consistently played by the Sri Lankans, which was the best of a rich summer, was not lost on the rapt, near-capacity crowds at the Oval. Sri Lanka is a country in turmoil and England can do better as hosts to its visiting cricketers than find fault with a prodigious Tamil talent who is working in harmony in a united Sri Lanka team.

McGwire is a genuine hero

From Mr John Stein

Sir, Like Mr Bryant (report, September 10), I prefer to admire the home run accomplishments of baseball great Mark McGwire, rather than "wonder" at them. Indeed, I do admire them. However, Mr Bryant does not present a balanced view of the dietary supplement "andro" and McGwire's use of it.

First, McGwire has been a prolific home-run hitter his entire career. Last year, prior to using andro, he hit 58 homers. The year before it was 53. Achieving 62 is no fluke.

Second, according to numerous reports in US newspapers, McGwire began using the supplement only after consultation with his doctor.

Third, McGwire assures us that if Major League Baseball reverses current policy and disallows andro, he will cease using it. I believe him.

So admire the home runs and admire the man. He is a gentle giant who is genuine to the core.

Yours faithfully,
RIZDUAN FAROUK
Consultant Surgeon
Royal Berkshire Hospital
Reading RG1 5AN
RizFarouk@aol.com

The name game

From Mr W Abercrombie

Sir, With Richmond RFC and London Scottish RFC moving to Reading and Twickenham, they will wish to adopt more appropriate names (I suggest Thames Valleyudmirians and Sloop Conquerors). This would clear the way for the formation of a Richmond RFC and London Scottish RFC, who could become co-tenants at the Athletic Ground.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM J. ABERCROMBIE,
100 Mortlake Road, Kew,
Richmond, Surrey TW9 4AS
aber@elara.net

Poetry in motion

From Mr Roy Dean

Sir, A comment on the recent England international: A confident coach called Glenn Hoddle thought that beating the Swedes was a doddle. But a fast-moving team quickly shattered his dream; He'll have no regrets — but his squad'll.

Yours sportively,
ROY DEAN,
14 Blyth Road, Bromley,
Kent BR1 3RX.

Need to embrace

From Mr Ridzuan Farouk

Sir, Further to Rob Hughes's comment on the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur (The Times, September 9), it is likely that athletes to the 2002 Games in Manchester will also experience oppressive weather (if you come from the equator), poverty amongst op-

ulence and discouragement to take drugs. In a month when the World Health Organisation has commended Malaysia for its poverty eradication, one hopes that the athletes will also come to Manchester with the United Nations reporting an improvement in Britain's standing of having one-in-six people living in poverty (The Times, September 9). Britain should embrace its former colonies in constructive friendship so that fledgling democracies may develop, even if The Times cannot.

Yours faithfully,
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RizFarouk@aol.com

This week in THE TIMES

■ **Tomorrow**
Football's governing bodies are hoping to head off a breakaway European Super League. With a new task force meeting in Geneva, what plans are there to revamp the European club competitions?

■ **Wednesday**
How have British clubs fared in their first-round matches in the UEFA Cup?

■ **Thursday**
Alex Ferguson, above, and his Manchester United team set off once more on their quest for the European Cup. How did they do at home to Barcelona?

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match and Danny Baker.

سكزا من الأصل

Commonwealth Games: England medal-winners halt Australian domination of swimming events

Hickman consoled by silver

FROM CRAIG LORD IN KUALA LUMPUR

A LESSER man might have crumbled, but on a night when Australia claimed the first world record of the Commonwealth Games...

more than half a second but put his team well inside the record pace set by Russia at the Olympic Games in 1992.



Celebrations for the record-breaking Australian quartet. Thorpe, left, embraces Klim and Dunn hugs Kowalski



Hickman is astonished at his disqualification

The team's effort also showed that Klim's coach, Gennadiy Touretski has not lost his touch. The Russian coached the Olympic champions of 1992 before leaving to head the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

man said, explaining his false start. "I heard a clicking noise behind me and I was really hyped. I just went. It was surreal. I just couldn't believe he was pulling me from the race.

cut the deficit before a sensational last turn that left him at Stead's waist. Hickman battled every inch of the way down the final 50 metres but the wall came just too soon and he was beaten by 0.28sec but his time of 4min 20.17sec was 1.57sec inside his own British record.

third. Hickman, who had held the Games record for a few minutes before Huegill took it from him in the morning heats, said the final times suggested he would have won the silver medal at the very least.

clean sweep of golds when she led for the first 150 metres of the 200 metres freestyle final. Racing in the first lane, she was overhauled by Susie O'Neill in the final 15 metres of the race but was delighted with the silver medal after the disappointment of losing her 100 metres title to her teammate, Susan Rolph, on Saturday.

Goode stays on course for hat-trick

FROM RICHARD EATON

ENGLAND became strong favourites for one gold medal and have an outside chance of taking the other gold as well as almost everything went the way of both their squads on the penultimate day of the badminton team event.

had never experienced previously. Mann and Hallam came up with crucial singles wins against Woon Sze Mei and Law Pei Pei respectively and Pantaney did well while losing in a dead encounter against the 16-year-old discovery, Ng Mee Fen.

They eventually won 3-2 while the men disposed of New Zealand 4-1 in a match which saw the tournament's outstanding singles player, Ong Ewe Hock, perform the splits while attempting a lunge at the net. He fell again after a couple more rallies and had to be taken from the court on a stretcher.

With luck the women could be virtually sure of gold by lunch. If they win 4-1 or 5-0 against Australia in the morning it would take an outlandishly freakish result against India in the evening for them not to finish top of the final pool.

Stunned Parke suffers second-round exit

SIMON PARKE, the British champion and England No 1, was surprisingly beaten in the second round of the men's squash singles at the Games yesterday. He was defeated 9-4, 0-9, 2-9, 9-4, 10-8 minutes by David Evans, the 23-year-old Welsh champion, who is ranked 20 places behind him in the Professional Squash Association world list.

tressed on a backhand drop for the match. I was never so glad to see a ball hit the tin." Paul Johnson and Mark Challoner will provide England's representatives in the men's quarter-finals. Challoner faces Nicol, of Scotland, the No 1 seed, and Johnson's task is almost as tough against the Rodney Eyles, of Australia, the No 3 seed and world champion.

Evans will meet Jonathon Power, of Canada, the No 2 seed, and Alex Gough, also of Wales, plays Craig Wapnick, of South Africa, today. "These are normal squash confrontations we have experienced all over the world," Johnson said. "I am awed walking around the sports venues here. I have never felt anything like the emotion of the opening ceremony on Friday. I was close to tears. God knows what it would be like to win a medal."

There were also surprises in the bowls competition, notably the 4-3 hammering inflicted on the New Zealand pair, Bruce McNish and Brian Baldwin, by Noel Graham and Sammy Allen, of Northern Ireland. Even more surprising yesterday, however, was the way Graham and Allen, the new favourites, fell from grace against Canada and Botswana, while McNish and Baldwin bounced back to beat Wales and the same Canada pairing that had humbled Northern Ireland.

his sixth Commonwealth Games, it was a desperately unhappy weekend. He felt snubbed by Colin McEachran, the team manager, who asked Doug Walker, an athlete, to carry the team flag at the opening ceremony. Then he squandered a 21-14 lead and lost 24-25 to John Price, of Wales, in his opening match.

and dropped a treble on the replay to lose by one. The shooting events produced two gold medals for England. First, Nigel Wallace and Chris Hector won the first gold after scoring 1,173 points in the pairs men's air rifle event.

England cut up Kenyans Souyave hits out after rout

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

FROM CATHY HARRIS

ENGLAND remained on course for the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games tournament yesterday, with their 3-1 victory over Kenya giving them a total of four points from two matches.

IT may not matter in the final reckoning, but the fact that England only managed to defeat Namibia 8-0 left coach Maggie Souyave barely able to conceal her anger yesterday.

On the basis of their territorial supremacy, England deserved to win, but this was not an easy match for them. They squandered eight short corners in the first half and, of three in the second period, only one was converted.

Firmly in the driving seat after their splendid 1-1 draw with South Africa on Saturday, the English took the field knowing a scoring spree was necessary if they were to finish top of the group and avoid Australia in the semi-finals.

Kenya were lucky to be on equal terms by the interval, especially after a barrage of short corners. Sharpe put England ahead in the 37th minute.

Unfortunately, the second-half performance was no better, although Jane Sixsmith, Cullen, Clewlow and Jane Smith added further goals.

Her competition over, Murdoch's face radiated genuine relief, not because she had fallen, but because she had not let her side down.

Not even a magnificent goalkeeping display by Michelle Thomas could prevent Wales from losing 5-1 to New Zealand. Rachel O'Bryan, who scored the Welsh goal, was one of three players sidelined through illness in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Canada.

Australia avenge earlier reverse

Rob Hughes reports on a narrow England defeat and the bravery of one young competitor



A tearful Murdoch is comforted by Poppa after a tumble

ENGLAND lost a compelling contest for gold against Australia in the women's team gymnastics yesterday evening. It ended on the final element of the four apparatus when a balletic display of balance and artistry on the beam, by 16-year-old Lisa Massey, from Aylesbury, was not quite enough. Mason earned a 9.74 score, but Australia responded with excellence on the floor exercise.

self before a rapt audience. Murdoch is typical of the elfin children whose bodies, held together by flesh-coloured bandages at the joints, go through contortions that adults simply could not perform. Gymnasts no longer affect fixed Hollywood smiles, but Murdoch, from Ulster, went the whole gamut of dramatic emotions.

She was leading the competition when she twice fell off the beam. Bruises we could not see, but tears, and the comforting and cajoling of Eugevina Poppa, who once was a fine Soviet tumbler and now coaches Northern Ireland's girls, became the focus of what was captivating, yet concerning us. We were watching a child in

SCHEDULE table with columns for TODAY and TOMORROW, listing various sports events and times.

BARCLAYCARD advertisement with logo and text: 'BARCLAYCARD. Proud sponsors of Britain's medal material. Every year our grants, media training and publicity help 100 of Britain's best young sportspeople become world class.'

ROWING

Redgrave adds to collection

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT IN COLOGNE

GREAT Britain ended the world championships with three gold medals, a silver and two fourth places from the 11 boats that reached finals...

Results

Steve Redgrave for whom the win produced his eighth world gold medal to go with his four Olympic titles, agreed...



Page of RGS High Wycombe, scores his side's opening try in their narrow defeat of St Edward's, Oxford

St Edward's made to pay penalty

THERE have been some epic rugby matches between St Edward's, Oxford, and RGS High Wycombe over the years...

John Goodbody on a typically close encounter between two sides who again look set for plenty more cheer this season



and they have clearly benefited from the experience in South Africa. Alex Melrose, the RGS captain...

McEwen's example. Although they were overwhelmed in the lineouts, they often dominated the scrummages...

Carefully prepared by Colin Tattersall, the first man in the country to coach two different divisions at under-16 level...

Advertisement for 'SHEEHAN on BRIDGE' by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'KEENE on CHESS' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

This week I will be discussing slam bidding techniques. The first specialised bid I want to describe is the 'advance cue bid'...

Bridge hand diagram showing a deal with West and East hands and a 'Diagram of final position'.

and he should just bid Four Spades over Three Spades — that is, he admits to having three-card spade support but warns East that his hand is otherwise unsuitable for slam purposes.

White: Jan Timman Black: Garry Kasparov EuroTel, Prague 1998

Chess board diagram showing a game between Jan Timman and Garry Kasparov.

White to play. This position is from the game Spielmann — Tartakower, Munich 1909. The white pieces are dangerously close to the weak squares in the black kingside.

WORD-WATCHING section by Philip Howard with a list of words and their definitions.

WINNING MOVE section by Raymond Keene with chess puzzles and solutions.

BOXING: Schwer eyes WBC title after easy victory

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BILLY SCHWER, the European lightweight champion, can look forward to a challenger for the World Boxing Council (WBC) world championship early next year.

Mickey Duff, Schwer's manager, said yesterday that José Sulaiman, the WBC president, had told him that the Luton boxer would be given the No 1 spot if he impressed against the Frenchman...

When the Frenchman doubled up in the seventh round, after two blows to the stomach, the referee quickly stepped in and called a halt to proceedings.

SPEEDWAY: Americans secure future with team win

By TONY HOARE

GREG HANCOCK and Billy Hamill have been given a welcome boost by their main sponsor after winning the World Team Cup final for the United States.

Summers caused speculation when he made an announcement last month that Hancock's place in the team was in jeopardy, but he has hinted now that an announcement this week will include both riders for next year.

"We both said before the meeting that this was our last chance of a gold medal this year," Hancock, who is level on points with Hamill going into the final world championship...

Hancock will be succeeded as the world individual champion on Friday night by either Tony Rickardsson or Jimmy Nilsson.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

A detailed sports calendar listing events for today, tomorrow, and the weekend, including football, rugby, and horse racing.

PLUMPTON 3.50 SOUTHERN FM NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (€3,485; 2m 5f) (10) listing race details and participants.

2.20 FRIAY AD NOVICES HURDLE (€2,338; 2m 4f) (11 runners) listing race details and participants.

4.20 NORTHWEST AIRLINES USA JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (€3,478; 2m 10f) (12) listing race details and participants.

4.50 SOUTHERN FM LISTENERS HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,803; 2m 4f) (7) listing race details and participants.

A vertical strip of advertisements on the right side of the page, including 'Godol', 'Sea W', 'NOTTING', and 'USSELBURGH'.

سكرا من الأهل

Customers are now free to choose their supplier in a long-awaited liberalisation of the power industry, writes David Young

Electricity on tap from the gasman

From this morning electricity bills will never be the same again for 750,000 consumers. Instead of coming from their local electricity board, as they always have done, they could arrive from the gas board or the water board.

Consumers in Motherwell could buy their power from Eastern Electricity in Ipswich and customers will be given the freedom of choice in an upheaval of the market first promised when the industry was privatised a decade ago.

Several thousands of consumers have already made inquiries about changing their supplier as the marketing campaigns have been launched over the past months. Sales teams have been explaining how consumers will have been given a meter number by their existing supplier and told of the planned changes.

Exactly how many will change suppliers is difficult to

gauge, but even those who elect to stay with their existing suppliers — and analysts suggest that more than 90 per cent may do so — will inevitably benefit from increased competition in the shape of lower bills and better service.

Experience in the telecommunications market after its liberalisation has shown that a substantial number of consumers are prepared to shop around and switch suppliers — perhaps as many as five per cent in the first few weeks. Analysts who have been watching the market suggest that these same people will be the first to switch suppliers, so it is clear that the numbers involved by the end of this year when the electricity deregulation is completed are immense.

The opening up of the gas market has shown that large commercial customers are ready to switch, but domestic customers have been more cautious. In addition fewer play-

ers have emerged in the domestic gas market than was anticipated, largely because companies producing gas from the North Sea already have access to large industrial and power-generation markets in Britain and to the industrial markets of mainland Europe.

In some cases the most successful entrants to the domestic gas market have been the regional electricity companies who now have access to a wider range of consumers. It is, therefore, inevitable that the consumer will benefit from the deregulated market, with many attractive offers for combined electricity and gas packages about to come through the letterbox.

The domestic electricity market is more accessible and safeguards for customers have been put in place with the establishment of a Code of Conduct by the Electricity Association, which has also developed the complex metering

system which will make sure that customers receive accurate billing. Overall the electricity supply industry has spent £1.2 billion to ensure deregulation goes smoothly.

The first customers to be able to choose are those in Norfolk with NR postcodes in the Norwich area, those in the Chester area with CH postcodes, those in the Hull area with HU postcodes and those in the Motherwell area with ML postcodes.

"These are exciting times," says John Roberts, the president of the Electricity Association. "The UK is leading the way on electricity competition. The world is watching, as many other countries anticipate following our lead into full liberalisation."

"Setting up the infrastructure to allow 26 million customers to change suppliers as and when they wish has been an IT project equivalent to creating the high street banks'



Power players: Regulator Stephen Littlechild, John Battle, Energy Minister, and John Roberts, of the Electricity Association

clearing system from scratch. "The market brings exciting opportunities both for the companies competing in it and for the customers whose business they are trying to win. It is important to remember that

domestic customers have already enjoyed price reductions of 23 per cent, after allowing for inflation, since 1990. This is due to substantially increased efficiency in power generation and the success of RPI-X regu-

lation. A fully competitive electricity supply market should drive prices down further, but because of the savings already realised, the degree of reductions will be less than when the gas market was fully opened earlier this year.

"Its success should be measured in the creation of a lasting market which, over the longer term, is more effective in delivering better service, greater choice and lower prices to the customer than would be achieved by regulation alone. It will happen because of the continued drive for efficiency and innovation within the existing industry, and among new entrants to the market."

"The electricity industry is determined that the market is successful. Customers come

first and it would be wrong to expose them to an identifiable risk of system errors: at market start-up, companies have invested not far short of £1 billion on designing, installing and rigorously testing the systems to back up this commitment.

"The systems have been thoroughly tested and are robust, but that is not to claim that there will be no teething troubles. If these should arise, companies are prepared to act swiftly and decisively to deal with them."

"Companies marketing electricity and gas services will observe both voluntary and statutory codes to protect customers from unethical practices, and this should enable them to make their choice with confidence."

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Who will get the top dog's job?

Craig Seton on the government plan to appoint a super-regulator

The Government is expected soon to name the person scheduled to become the new super-regulator responsible for the gas and electricity industries.

The all-in-one energy regulator will take over as Director-General of Gas Supply when the present incumbent, Clare Spottiswoode — the head of the industry watchdog Ofgas — leaves in November at the end of her five year contract.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, has made it clear that whoever succeeds Spottiswoode is likely also to be appointed Director-General of Electricity Supply in due course as the Government is considering legislation to create the single post of energy regulator, probably next year.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director-General of Electricity Supply and head of the watchdog body Offer, has agreed to leave his post, which he has held for ten years, when the new appointment is made. It is expected that the new regulator, who gets £120,000 a year, will be Callum McCarthy, a merchant banker. The Government says a single post is necessary because of the rising convergence of the gas and electricity markets, driven by competition, with firms from the two sectors now marketing both fuels. On the face of it the new all-in-one regulator's task looks less onerous than that which faced the separate gas and electricity watchdogs, which have had to oversee their sectors on the difficult road to full competition after privatisation. They have enjoyed differing fortunes since the posts were set up ten years ago.

Spottiswoode has presided over a domestic gas market that was fully deregulated — and producing lower bills for consumers — by May. That has been painful for British Gas, which was forced to give up its monopoly. Littlechild, on the other hand, had to postpone the start of open competition in the mass electricity market since last April because only four of the 14 regional electricity companies were ready for competitive trading. This added to the impression that Offer never quite got the hang of dealing with the fleet-footed electricity firms, which have done well out of privatisation. Both regulators can claim,

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THE TIMES MAGAZINE

How

David Young

Y

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How will it work for you?

David Young
on the planning
that went into
the launch
of the change

Your postcode will determine how soon you can choose to buy your electricity from a different supplier. In any event, freedom of choice will be available to all 26 million domestic consumers from the start of 1999, but already the sales and marketing campaigns have started.

However, before the electricity suppliers could start to sign up customers a massive system has had to be put in place to make sure that customers are billed properly so that the promised savings get through.

The programme of deregulation was formally launched in the autumn of 1995 when the Director-General of Electricity Supply appointed the PA Consulting Group as the overall programme manager to co-ordinate the work of various committees and sub-committees which had been formed. PA Consulting played an essential role in proposing ways forward in a number of areas, including the testing and integration of various systems. High-level groups involving the regulator, the supply companies and consumer groups have since met regularly to keep the programme on track. A Competitive Supply Code Executive, a Competitive Supply Code Forum and various other working groups solved many problems as they arose and by September 1996 a Central Integration and Design Authority was established to draw up a final schedule for deregulation. It must also ensure the overall integrity of the metering system which will enable next-door neighbours to



All firms compete on a level playing field so suppliers must provide a variety of services to enable customers to change supplier

buy their electricity from different suppliers while at the same time retaining the same consumers' rights.

Meanwhile the Electricity Pool of England and Wales, which runs the wholesale electricity market between the generators and the suppliers, has been responsible for developing fresh trading arrangements, contracts, rules and procedures which will allow the market to operate. The Pool appointed Cap Gemini, the IT services company, to manage the new trading and settlement system, and the company also developed a

metering point registration system which is essential for accurate billing. It is this system which will register the meter and supplier for every one of the 26 million electricity customers. The process also involved the Office for Electricity Regulation (Ofreg) and by September last year the various licence changes and codes of conduct were close to their final form.

The result is that all suppliers in the market must compete on a level playing field and this means that the Public Electricity Suppliers (PESs) must provide a variety of serv-

ices to enable customers to change supplier.

These will include registering new customers in their area who choose another supplier and arranging for collecting meter readings for the new suppliers, which has meant changing computer systems

and in some cases providing new hardware and software.

The PESs are also required to make their pre-payment meter networks available to competing suppliers. This has been welcomed by consumer organisations who have long argued that pre-payment

customers are at a disadvantage because they are unable to achieve the savings that are offered to consumers who pay bills by direct debit, and that this type of customer has been locked into buying energy at a comparatively high rate. Whether this sector of the market will hold out any attractions to suppliers remains to be seen, but linking this type of customer into other product sales is possible and bad debt in the electricity market is not a major issue. In fact, out of 26 million consumers fewer than 500 had their supplies cut off for non-payment last year.

The supply industry accepts that the full competition benefits of a deregulated market will not be realised until a large number of consumers switch suppliers - Offer suggests that between 5 and 10 per cent will switch by 2000, while management consultants Coopers & Lybrand are more optimistic and suggest that between 22 to 30 per cent of consumers will change suppliers within two years.

It has been decided, therefore, that some form of regulation will be retained to drive the market before competition becomes fully effective and that price restraints will remain in place in the transitional period.

When will competition become fully effective? That can only be guessed at, but since the market for larger industrial and commercial users was liberalised 43 per cent of those consumers now buy their power from suppliers other than their local regional electricity company.

Pay up for a green future

Craig Seton on how consumers can aid ecological researchers

While tens of thousands of electricity consumers are changing their suppliers, at least one of the big power firms is giving some of its customers the chance to eschew any savings from competition and opt to pay more for their fuel. It is not a case of marketing managers at Eastern Electricity taking leave of their commercial senses, but the firm's plan to give customers the option to contribute directly to the development of "green" electricity from renewable sources.

Eastern is marketing two new tariffs, EcoPower and EcoPower Plus, which add either a 5 or 10 per cent supplement to bills, equivalent to an additional £15 or £30 a year on an average domestic bill of £300.

The company says it will match pound for pound the additional payments made by customers up to a total of £1 million over two years. Funds raised are to be deposited in a charitable trust and used to support electricity generation schemes, including wind, wave and solar power, and research into renewable generation.

Launched in Eastern's area last year, the scheme's first customers have signed up, although no figures are

to hand. It will be available to consumers nationwide when electricity competition is fully rolled out over the next year in Britain. Eastern has set a target of having 10,000 EcoPower customers by October 1999.

The company says the project, which is backed by Friends of the Earth, is part of the commitment of its generation business to produce at least 10 per cent of its power from renewable resources by the year 2010.

The Government is investigating how a similar target can be achieved for power generation in the UK. The present level of "green" generation is only 2 per cent.

An Eastern official says that EcoPower is a niche product that is likely to be taken up only by those people who are determined to do their bit for renewable energy. The company's research suggests that up to 45,000 of its existing consumers may have some interest in paying extra.

Specialist "green" energy companies are already active in the electricity market. The Renewable Energy Company, based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, was established in 1996 and markets power generated from landfill gas.

The freedom to choose a supplier

Three-quarters of a million householders and small business users in four areas of Britain win the freedom to choose their electricity supplier and opt for lower fuel bills when the first phase of full competition in the market begins today, writes Craig Seton.

They represent 10 per cent of customers of Eastern Electricity in towns such as Norwich and Lowestoft; of Manweb in Chester and Mold; of Scottish Power in Motherwell and Lanark and of Yorkshire Electricity in Hull and Beverley, identified by their postcode, who can - if they wish - now take supplies from one of the other three power firms involved in phase one or from British Gas, the former state-owned monopoly, which is entering the domestic electricity supply market for the first time. Full competition across these areas is being introduced in three stages lasting six months. Deregulation across the whole of Britain is not scheduled to be completed until June next year. The evidence of the past few

A new tranche of householders can save on their bills

months suggests that consumers will not hesitate to switch to a cheaper supplier, and tens of thousands of households and small businesses have done so in the phase one areas or have signed contracts with new companies in advance of full competition.

Yorkshire Electricity, for instance, says it has won 100,000 electricity customers outside its area. And British Gas claims that by last week 400,000 households in many areas of Britain had signed contracts to take its domestic electricity supplies.

British Gas says another 1.5 million households have already expressed an interest in taking its electricity supplies. It is about to launch a big marketing campaign in an attempt

to take more customers away from their existing suppliers, and in a fully competitive market it hopes to sell electricity to between 2.5 million and 3.5 million consumers. The opening of the former monopoly's own domestic gas market to competition two years ago clearly demonstrates that customers want lower fuel bills. British Gas has lost three million of its customers - 15 per cent - to new players in gas supply, including regional electricity companies and firms such as Amerada, a subsidiary of Amcanda Hess Corporation, the gas and oil giant with operations in the North Sea.

Another one million customers of British Gas are estimated to have signed contracts in advance of changing to another supplier. Amerada's vigorous marketing campaign is typical of the intense competition that British Gas has faced in trying to cling to its former monopoly customer base.

Amerada says that consumers switching to the company can make savings of up to £85 a year on a £500 British Gas bill, depending on which of its tariff and payment options is chosen. The firm's offers include an Air Miles deal and options for NatWest credit and charge card holders.

Average domestic gas bills are about £13 a year and according to Dr Eileen Marshall, the deputy director of gas supply at Ofgas, the industry regulator, "Independent figures show that some customers can save up to 20 per cent on their gas bills by changing supplier - equivalent to more than £60 off the average bill."

The scale of savings on electricity bills through switching supplier are unlikely to be as high as they have been in gas. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director-General of Ofreg, says that consumers were already benefiting from lower electricity bills as the industry prepared for the open market fray. Offer says the average real charge for a typical domestic customer fell by 5 per cent last year and in order to give domestic customers bigger savings, the regulator has introduced price restraints requiring an average reduction in tariffs of about 9 per cent over the two years that started last April.

The marketing for electricity customers will undoubtedly intensify as competition sweeps through the domestic marketplace. Midlands Electricity, which is not set to join the competition until next month, has already announced that it is expanding its field sales force by 300 people as it too sets out to win new business and defend its existing customer base.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days' close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

Main table of stock prices and changes, organized by sector and company name, including columns for stock code, company name, price, change, yield, and P/E ratio.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, and WATER.

Advertisement for Planet Microsoft, featuring the text 'Products and services sell worldwide, 24 hours a day on the Internet.' and 'COMPAQ Planet Microsoft'. It includes contact information for a Freephone number (0500 550 650) and an email address (info@theplanet.net).

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially obscured, including the words 'STATISTICS' and 'Trends talk'.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY
Interims: ASW Holdings, Britania Group, CA Courts Holdings, Farley Group, Haden Maclellan, Morgan Crucible, NMT Group, Reunion Mining, Sharpe & Fisher, Sinclair Montrose, Swan Hill Group, Thomson Travel, Travis Perkins, T&S Stores, Ulster Television, Finats: Allied Leisure, City Technology, Dowling & Mills, European Leisure, Goodwood Group, Hays, Manganese Bronze, Polypipe, Regent Inns, Wainhomes, Whitard of Chelsea. Economic statistics: Japan July current account surplus, UK August producer price index, G7 finance ministry officials meeting on international financial crisis.

TOMORROW
Interims: Automotive Precision, Bntax, Capital Corp, Capital Industries, Dalia, Dixon Motors, DRS Data & Research, Hunting, Independent Radio Group, Jackson Group, Mitras Investment Trust, A&J Mucklow Group, Servorex, T7 Group, United Overseas. Finats: Alumasc Group, Compal Group, Cortec, Dorling Kindersley, Fraaport Leisure, Redrow Group, JD Weatherpoon. Economic statistics: UK August retail price index, US August retail sales.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Abbott Mead Vickers, Alliance Unichem, Ash & Lacey, Charles Baynes, G&S, Britannic Assurance, W. Carron, Cousins Property Group, Dairy Farm International, Fulmar, Norman Hay, Hong Kong Land, Kingfisher, Lopez, Mandarini, Towry Law, Traca Computers, Verity Group. Economic statistics: UK August labour market report, UK August public sector finances, minutes of August Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

THURSDAY
Interims: Bovis Homes Group, British Aerospace, Cordiant Communications Group, Dolphin Packaging, Folkes Group, Geest, Jardina, Jardine Strategic, Kwik-Fit Holdings, MDIS Group, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, MTL Instruments, Next, Princeside Group, S&L, Trinity UCM Group, Wodenhouse Park. Finats: Leeds Sporting, Tor Investment Trust, Quayia Munro Holdings. Economic statistics: UK August retail sales.

FRIDAY
Interims: Blue Circle Industries, Hanover International, Finats: None. Economic statistics: UK August provisional M4, M4 lending, UK August final M0, UK British Bankers' Association and August bank lending, UK Building Societies Association August building society lending, UK August car production.

COMPANIES



MICHAEL CLARK

Few surprises in store at Kingfisher

KINGFISHER: Last week's news that the Woolworth, B&Q and Comet retailer intends to challenge Scottish Media's £31.2 million bid for VCI, the video publisher that includes the Thomas the Tank Engine series, took the market by surprise.

But there are unlikely to be any surprises from Kingfisher and Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, when it unveils half-year results on Wednesday.

Nick Bubbs at Societe Generale Securities, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £168 million against £150 million last time with the payout growing from 3.25p to 3.5p.

B&Q, which stood out with a strong performance last year, will have experienced a slowdown in sales during the second quarter, having been affected by poor weather. Woolworth will have enjoyed further strong growth as will its French operation, Darty, although the strong pound will have caused translation problems for the latter.

"Kingfisher usually manages to beat expectations and there is no reason why that should not be the case this time round. Hopefully, the company will have an upbeat message about prospects for the rest of the year," says Mr Bubbs.

NEXT: The first signs that all was not well with the high street retailer came in March, when it shocked the City by warning of a drop in sales. Since then it has been evident that the poor weather, deflation and stock range problems have all conspired against the group. As a result, brokers are bracing themselves for the interim results, due on Thursday.

Societe Generale Securities is forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits from £67 million to £50.5 million, while BT Alex Brown is looking for a final figure of £49 million. These numbers are towards the top end of the range.

SocGen remains confident that Next can make up some of the lost ground in the second half and is still looking for a virtually unchanged £176 million for the year. Like-for-like sales are expected to show a drop of 4 per cent although the company app-



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy has his eye on VCI and the Thomas the Tank Engine video series

ears to have made a positive start to the autumn season. The payout is likely to be pegged at 6p.

BRITISH AEROSPACE: Further growth in defence and the vagaries of cashflow will have a strong role to play in half-year results due on Thursday. Pre-tax profit estimates range from £302 million to £330 million against £260 million last time, before exceptional. Earnings a share will come in at 13p (11.6p).

Brokers will be looking to see to what extent low oil prices will have affected the group's cashflow. "I expect the oil price

could well have a short-term effect on cashflow, but in all other respects BAE continues to represent a safe haven as far as engineering stocks are concerned," says Adrian Murray at Teather & Greenwood, the broker, who sees first-half pre-tax profits coming in at £330 million.

BG: The warmer weather and ongoing restructuring costs will have taken their toll on second-quarter numbers due on Wednesday. BT Alex Brown, the broker, is predicting adjusted net income of £115 million (£123 million). Earnings will decline

from 3.1p to 2.9p. Exploration and production will have been hit by a combination of lower oil prices and a seasonal drop in gas production. Transco has now been divided into 13 separate units.

After last year's cut in the payout, brokers are confident on an increase this time round of 7.5 per cent to 4.3p. A total of 8.6p has been pencilled in for the full year.

RMC GROUP: After losing its position as a constituent of the FTSE 100 index last week, brokers will be hoping for some positive news from the company

when half-year results are unveiled on Thursday. They are likely to be disappointed.

Brokers are forecasting little change in pre-tax profits on last year's figure of £116 million with earnings a share pegged at 26p.

The payout is expected to grow from 8.2p to 8.65p.

BLUE CIRCLE INDUSTRIES: A profits decline is on the cards when Britain's biggest cement maker reports interim numbers on Friday. It too loses place as a constituent of the top 100 companies last week.

Difficult trading conditions in Malaysia, Chile and Africa and the effect of the warm weather on its heating division will all combine to drive profits down from £143 million last year to £130 million this time round. Earnings will decline from 11.5p to 10.9p. The group will also have suffered from contracting margins and higher interest charges.

There is likely to be a small increase in the dividend from 4.7p to 4.9.

JD WETHERSPOON: Full-year pre-tax profits due on Tuesday are expected to be in the range of £20.5 million to £21.5 million, up from £17.6 million last time round. Earnings a share should also come in at 10p (8.7p).

Results at the pubs group will have been hit by disappointing sales levels during the World Cup.

Second-half profits per pub fell by around 7 per cent on 1 per cent lower average sales. Analysts will be looking for indications on whether trading in recent weeks has picked up.

HAYS: A strong second-half performance will have produced an impressive outcome for the year as final results will show today. Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at between £190 million and £200 million. That compares with £153.3 million last time. Earnings are also likely to be up around a quarter at 35p.

Brokers are expecting an across the board improvement, except in chemicals, which will reflect the downturn in the manufacturing industry. Look for a payout rise from 9.3p to 10.7p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Markets set for rough ride

International markets are set for another rollercoaster week as important economic data is released against the background of the political crisis in both Russia and the US.

President Clinton's problems will continue to grip the public but investors will be anxious to see if the new Russian Government is prepared to take tough action to try to tackle its growing economic problems. The G7 deputy finance ministers are meeting in London today to discuss the Russian crisis but analysts expect no clear commitments while the situation remains so uncertain.

On Wednesday, the markets will be focused on Congress where Alan Greenspan, Chairman of Federal Reserve, Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, and George Soros are due to give their views on the current bout of market instability.

In the UK, the markets will be looking for evidence that the domestic economic situation might provide the Bank of England with scope for an early rate cut, after its admission last week that the worsening international situation has made a cut more likely.

On Tuesday, the August inflation data will show underlying inflation remaining just above target levels. MIMS, the forecasting group, predicts the annual rate will remain static at 2.6 per cent, while the headline measure should fall to 3.3 per cent, easing upward pressure on wages. The average earnings data, released on Wednesday, should confirm this trend, with annual growth predicted to fall from 5 per cent in May to 4.7 per cent in June.

The latest borrowing figures, due out on Wednesday, should show a small August surplus, leaving the Government on track to beat its full-year forecast.

The market expects no change in interest rates when the Bundesbank Council meets on Thursday, with global problems countering any inflationary consequences of an improving economy.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Next, Mayflower, Eidos and Stoves Group; Sell Securicor and Vaux Group; Hold Mediasys. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Yorkshire Water, Saatchi and Saatchi, Delphi Group, Estates & General and 3i; Sell Bentalls and United Assurance. The Express on Sunday: Buy Windsor, Beazer Group, Novara and Iceland. The Mail on Sunday: Buy WML.

DTI rejects talk of end to Secretary's veto

THE Department of Trade and Industry has rejected reports of plans to strip Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, of his powers to block company takeovers (Martin Waller writes).

Instead, the Government has confirmed that proposals for an independent Competition Commission are being considered in Whitehall.

The final say on whether or not to allow a takeover or merger lies with the Secretary of State for Trade and Indus-

try, currently Mr Mandelson. He is expected to make a decision soon, possibly as early as next week, on whether to allow the purchase by Ladbroke Group of Coral, a rival bookmaker, a takeover that has attracted criticism even from within the Cabinet.

The DTI has described suggestions that Mr Mandelson may intend to block the deal as "speculative".

Yesterday the DTI insisted there were no plans to change the way decisions are taken.

Whitbread to open 200th Inn

By DOMINIC WALSH

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure group, will this month open its 200th Travel Inn, consolidating its position as the UK's biggest budget lodge operator.

Sir Michael Angus, the chairman of Whitbread, will unveil the Bridge Barn Beefeater and Travel Inn at Woking, Surrey, on September 29. The 34-room hotel and restaurant has cost almost £1 million to develop.

Whitbread has told City analysts the company is in-

creasingly concerned about the high prices being paid for pubs and restaurants and is therefore concentrating additional investment on hotels.

Whitbread owns the TGI Fridays, Bella Pavia, Cafe Rouge and Pizza Hut restaurant chains. But the company has been telling shareholders that the pub and restaurant market is in danger of overheating, which is pushing the price of new sites beyond what the company is prepared to pay.

Instead, Travel Inn is ex-

panding at the rate of one new hotel every ten days. Its nearest competitor is Travelodge, part of the Forte empire acquired by Granada in 1996, which currently has about 170 hotels and expects to hit 200 by the year 2000.

Both companies started life as roadside lodge operators but over the past 18 months have increasingly targeted city centre locations. Whitbread is doing so through the Travel Inn Capital sub-brand. In London it has opened units in Putney, Euston

and at County Hall, where it is opening a Marriott hotel later this month.

The next Travel Inn Capital is scheduled to open next spring just south of the Thames on Tower Bridge Road, at a cost of £9 million.

A company spokeswoman denied weekend reports that the £200 million investment package on restaurants announced earlier this year was at risk. But the company feels better value lies in hotels and in its David Lloyd sports centres.

Crest plans European settlement network

CREST, the settlement system used for British and Irish shares, plans to bring down the cost of dealing in European equities to the same level as domestic securities (Martin Waller writes).

The savings will come from links between Crest and other settlement systems across Europe that should result in the development of a pan-European network. Eventually, charges to investors for the delivery against payment of foreign shares from one mem-

ber of the network to another should fall to as little as one euro, or 60p.

As a first step, Crest has confirmed plans to link with Segal, the settlement system for Swiss stock markets, in the third quarter of next year.

Jain Saville, chief executive of CrestCo, the company that administers the London system, said it would help make European shares more affordable to the British investor, and "make it as easy to settle Nestlé as it is to settle Glaxo".

Table with multiple columns: 1998 Low, High, Mid cap, Price, Why, Yld, P/E, 1998 Low, High, Mid cap, Price, Why, Yld, P/E, 1998 Low, High, Mid cap, Price, Why, Yld, P/E, 1998 Low, High, Mid cap, Price, Why, Yld, P/E. Lists various companies and their financial metrics.

THE NEWS

In 1997 SmithKline Beecham reported pre-tax profits of £1.65 billion on sales of £7.8 billion. Pharmaceuticals makes most money for the company, with Paxil/Seroxat and Augmentin each having sales of \$1.5 billion.

THE BOARD

Sir Peter Walters, 67, is chairman, and a director since 1989. The former BP chairman is also deputy chairman of EMI Group and HSBC Holdings, and is a director of Saatchi & Saatchi.

The chief executive is 58-year-old **Jan Leschly**. The charismatic former tennis professional, who was among the world's top ten 30 years ago, is a pharmacist who worked at Novo in Denmark before moving to the US with Squibb. He is also a director of American Express and CBS Corporation.

Jean-Pierre Garnier, 50, is chief operating officer — Leschly's right-hand man and heir apparent. He is credited with building SB's strong US business.

Hugh Collum, 58, will shortly retire as chief financial officer and will be replaced by his deputy, **Andrew Bonfield**. Bob Bauman's first recruit to Beecham, Collum is a director of M&G, Safeway, and will soon join the board of Siebe.

Chief science and technology officer is **George Feste**, 54, an early advocate of a gene-based approach to disease.

Tadatsuka Yamada, 53, is president of healthcare services, covering Clinical Labs and Diversified Pharmaceutical Services.

Besides Sir Peter, SB has eight non-executive directors, including **Paul Alaire**, 50, chairman of Xerox Corporation; **Sir John Browne**, 50, chief executive of BP; **Sir Christopher Hogg**, 62, chairman of Reuters Holdings and Allied Domecq; **Donald McHenry**, 61, a director of AT&T and Coca-Cola; and **Lucy Shapiro**, 58, who is head of developmental biology at Stanford University.

One measure of a company's management is the jobs they get offered. Jerry Karabelas, who ran SmithKline Beecham's pharmaceutical operations until last December, is now in charge of healthcare at Novartis, which owns the world's third-largest drug company.

Jean-Pierre Garnier, Dr Karabelas's former boss, can go one better. Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo Wellcome, offered Dr Garnier the opportunity to become chief executive of Glaxo SmithKline, which would have been the largest company in the world's most profitable industry. In an impressive display of loyalty to Jan Leschly, SB's chief executive, he turned down the job.

He explains: "It's not just about money. You don't stab someone in the back just because you are offered a big job and a big title. We have a good partnership here."

That partnership has, since Mr Leschly took over as chief executive in 1994, helped SB increase comparable annual trading profits by 60 per cent to £1.7 billion last year. The performance in the US, the world's biggest and fastest-growing healthcare market, has been particularly strong. Since the start of 1994, SB's market value has risen from £10 billion to £38 billion.

These achievements counted for little in the acrimonious aftermath of the failed £100 billion merger with Glaxo Wellcome earlier this year. Disappointed shareholders whined about their "lost" £15 billion as both share prices fell sharply. Investors were slow to accept that the promised benefits of combining the two research and development organisations would never emerge if the deal had to be forced through amid management disagreements, culture clashes and political in-fighting.

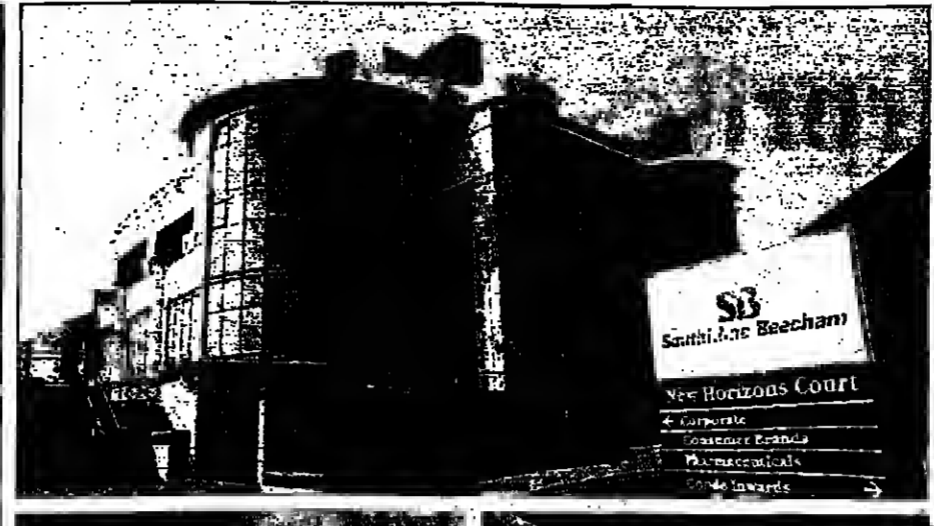
Typically more open, SB persuasively argued that Glaxo Wellcome had reneged on the agreed deal, suddenly seeking Mr Leschly's retirement at the eleventh hour.

Yet it was SB that left looking the weaker company, having apparently walked away from two mergers — the first with American Home Products — in as many months. SB was perceived to be in need of a deal.

SB's growth, supported by its two \$1.5 billion blockbuster, the antibiotic Augmentin and the anti-depressant Paxil/Seroxat, has failed to prevent it from slipping down the world pharmaceutical league. The 1989 merger that created SB briefly lifted the group to number four in the rankings.

Since then, the mergers that

CORPORATE



Bob Bauman, the former chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, bottom left, credits Jean-Pierre Garnier, top left, and Jan Leschly with creating a culture of success at the pharmaceutical company. Based at New Horizons Court, SB's prosperity depends on the successful development of new drugs such as Avandia

formed Bristol-Myers Squibb and Novartis, and the rise and rise of Pfizer, have pushed SB back to ninth place.

The group will this year spend nearly £1 billion on research and development. Dr Garnier boasts of 60 projects in clinical trials, but many of these are extensions of existing products. That leaves SB looking heavily reliant on Avandia for insulin-resistant diabetes.

Other promising products have not always delivered in recent years. Kredit/Care, for congestive heart failure, has disappointed earlier hopes, while Memric, for Alzheimer's disease, failed in late-stage trials.

SB is strong in vaccines, a business shunned by many of the world's leading drugs groups. It is also strong in genomics and the techniques of gene-based drug discovery.

SmithKline Beecham was created from the 1989 merger

of SmithKline Beckman of the US and Britain's Beecham. Bob Bauman, the American who became chairman in 1986, was also an in pharmaceuticals and was poorly placed to make the most of the recently launched Augmentin and Lucozade and Ribena drinks businesses.

Mr Leschly and Dr Garnier joined SB Pharmaceuticals within a few months of one another in 1990. In his book on the merger, Mr Bauman gives the two newcomers much of the credit for forging the single culture that completed the integration.

Mr Leschly probably made his biggest mistake within weeks of taking over from Mr Bauman. In May 1994 he decided to spend \$2.3 billion on Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, one of the drug-purchasing organisations that were briefly seen as holding the key to the US healthcare market.

It has not turned out that way. Although SB has avoided the disaster that befell Eli Lilly, Diversified is still not making any money. Mr Leschly and Dr Garnier continue to defend Diversified's contribution to the wider group, but it is hard

to believe it justifies the estimated £350 million of interest costs over the past four years.

A few months later, SB spent \$2.9 billion buying Sterling Winthrop from Eastman Kodak, thereby strengthening its consumer health business with brands such as Panadol, Andrews Liver Salts and Phillips Milk of Magnesia.

The consumer healthcare business contributed £398 million of trading profits last year, 23 per cent of the total. SB has achieved good growth with the smoking cessation products, NicoDerm and Nicorette, and with the much-expanded Aquafresh oral care range. Lucozade, Ribena and even Horlicks have continued to make good contributions.

The group is regularly encouraged to sell consumer healthcare to turn itself into a pure pharma company with higher average margins. SB gives this idea short shrift: cor-

sumer healthcare makes good profits that are not vulnerable, as are prescription pharmaceuticals, to patent expiries.

Moreover, according to Mr Bauman, the logic of the original merger saw the over-the-counter business as an important defence against the pricing pressure on pharmaceuticals. The trend towards self-medication will find SB strongly placed.

The case for retaining Clinical Laboratories, SB's third leg, looks much weaker. Part of SmithKline since 1970, the US blood and urine testing business made only £95 million last year on sales of £846 million. It is under persistent pressure to cut prices and is fighting legal claims for hundreds of millions of dollars related to past over-charging. Dr Garnier seems to have little enthusiasm for it.

Integrity Works, the business ethics consultancy, says SB has clearly expressed values and business conduct guidelines, but it was surprised that these are silent on human rights.

As a corporate citizen, SB can point to its free donation of its drug to kill the parasite that can cause the hugely disfiguring elephantiasis. Working with the World Health Organisation, SB is hoping to eliminate lymphatic filariasis over the next 20 years. Jimmy Carter, the former US President, has described this as the most generous corporate gift of all time.

Investor hopes that the merger with Glaxo Wellcome will be resurrected when Mr Leschly retires or steps aside fail to recognise the degree of unity within SB's management team.

But although SB has declared its confidence in an independent future, it cannot want to slip much further down the world pharmaceutical league. The company's fate could well be decided by the success of Avandia and other new drugs.

PAUL DURMAN

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Over the next three years, we are expecting a really meaningful increase in earnings growth, peaking at around 20-21 per cent in 2000. On the eternal question of a merger with Glaxo Wellcome, the bridges have been well and truly burnt."

Nigel Barnes, Merrill Lynch

"The need for corporate activity still exists. They need the new products for the US. It's less cash-generative than its peers and the pharma margins aren't as good, either."

Virginia Pascoe, HSBC Securities

"People are perhaps looking at their total healthcare concept, versus the pharma-only concept. Avandia is probably going to be the key drug that [will] convert analysts, one way or the other."

John Murphy, Goldman Sachs

Ethical expression.....5/10
Fat-cat quotient.....0/10
Financial record.....8/10
Share performance.....9/10
Attitude to staff.....8/10
Strength of brand.....8/10
Innovation.....8/10
Annual report.....6/10
City star rating.....7/10
Future prospects.....8/10
TOTAL.....65/100
Ethical expression is estimated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which boardroom pay packages are ranked highest, is provided by Cytec Consulting.

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Film-maker's fate settled off the screen

With the fate of Polygram Films, maker of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, expected to be settled by the end of the month and analysts looking for any sale to be at more than \$900 million, the company's president tells **Raymond Snoddy**, media editor, why he thinks he has another hit on his hands.



Kuhn: entering boom period

Michael Kuhn, president of Polygram Filmed Entertainment, is frustrated. The company has produced what he believes to be the best slate of films in its history at the very moment it is being sold by Seagram, its owner.

"It's a kind of sod's law. It's a really amazing slate and all I get nervous about is, although they [Seagram] have been very good up to now, that we won't get asset-stripped before the sale," Mr Kuhn said.

A September 18 deadline has been set for formal bids for the company that made *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and the signs are that EMI, MGM, Canal Plus and Carlton are all still in the hunt. Mr Kuhn has just seen *Morning Glory*, starring Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant, and believes it could be as big, if not bigger, than *Four Weddings*, which grossed more than \$250 million (£150 million).

Nothing Hill is just one of several Polygram films he expects to do well. *Elizabeth*, which depicts the Virgin Queen as less than virginal, has got "incredible reviews" and the PFE president believes *Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* could get into this year's top ten earners list in the UK.

Mr Kuhn adds that *Your Friends and Neighbours*, has been chosen by *The New York Times* as one of the two best films of the summer. Then there is *Very Bad Things*, a black comedy in the tradition of *Pulp Fiction*, which he

thinks could be big in the US and *What Dreams May Come*, starring Robin Williams, which is testing well.

The *Green Mile*, which PFE has in production and which stars Tom Hanks, could be big next year. "As a slate it should be extremely profitable and should validate the figure we have put in for the value of the investment which is in the \$300 million range," Mr Kuhn said.

The PFE president believes the movie business is entering a boom period with more cinemas being built all over the world and the growing importance of pay television and of DVD — digital video discs — to the retail trade.

"I see anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent annual growth for the next ten years in the business, most from international not the US," Mr Kuhn said.

Analysts believe that Seagram will decide not to sell PFE if the bids fall below the \$800 to \$900 million range. Seagram could simply keep the catalogue and end future production.

PFE would be the nearest fit for EMI. It would be like recreating Polygram — a record and film company — but MGM would get the greatest economies of scale, running two studios off one overhead. Carlton is looking for a partner to make a bid and has been talking with Canal Plus.

The fate of what Michael Kuhn sees as the first new Hollywood studio to be created since the war should be decided by the end of this month.

Bank of Australia	2.89	Bank of America	2.92	Bank of Montreal	2.75
Bank of China	2.18	Bank of Europe	2.62	Bank of India	2.18
Bank of East Asia	2.72	Bank of France	2.51	Bank of Japan	2.18
Bank of Hawaii	2.92	Bank of Italy	2.41	Bank of Korea	2.18
Bank of Indonesia	2.72	Bank of London	2.51	Bank of Mexico	2.18
Bank of Japan	2.18	Bank of Madras	2.41	Bank of New York	2.75
Bank of Kanto	2.72	Bank of Manila	2.41	Bank of Paris	2.51
Bank of Kyushu	2.72	Bank of Mexico	2.18	Bank of Rome	2.41
Bank of Long Beach	2.92	Bank of New York	2.75	Bank of Seville	2.41
Bank of London	2.51	Bank of Paris	2.51	Bank of Valencia	2.41
Bank of Manila	2.41	Bank of Rome	2.41	Bank of Zaragoza	2.41
Bank of Mexico	2.18	Bank of Seville	2.41	Bank of Bilbao	2.41
Bank of New York	2.75	Bank of Valencia	2.41	Bank of Girona	2.41
Bank of Paris	2.51	Bank of Zaragoza	2.41	Bank of Lleida	2.41
Bank of Rome	2.41	Bank of Bilbao	2.41	Bank of Tarragona	2.41
Bank of Seville	2.41	Bank of Girona	2.41	Bank of Osona	2.41
Bank of Spain	2.41	Bank of Lleida	2.41	Bank of Segura	2.41
Bank of Sweden	2.41	Bank of Segura	2.41	Bank of Teruel	2.41
Bank of Switzerland	2.41	Bank of Teruel	2.41	Bank of Castellon	2.41
Bank of Taiwan	2.41	Bank of Castellon	2.41	Bank of Murcia	2.41
Bank of Thailand	2.41	Bank of Murcia	2.41	Bank of Ciudad Real	2.41
Bank of Toronto	2.41	Bank of Ciudad Real	2.41	Bank of Salamanca	2.41
Bank of UK	2.41	Bank of Salamanca	2.41	Bank of Zamora	2.41
Bank of USA	2.41	Bank of Zamora	2.41	Bank of Leon	2.41

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE BELOW

ALAN CLARK FORUM

Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister.

The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum-series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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Please note that tickets will be posted until September 16 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171 636 1577 to confirm your booking.

*** Wednesday, September 23, 1998**

Alton anti-invest

Pilkington completes new line-up

READER OFFER

Great EasyJet F

TERMS & COND

تعداد من الاصل

Alton launches anti-abortion investment fund

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

PROFESSOR Lord Alton of Liverpool, the former Liberal Democrat MP, brings his long-running anti-abortion campaign to the City this week with the launch of the country's first "pro-life" investment fund.



Alton: ethical alternative

Although in theory the CF Banner Real Life Unit is simply the latest in a long line of ethical funds, it is bound to create more waves by being the first to take an active stance against abortion.

Professor Alton, who as an MP failed to get the abortion time limit cut from 25 to 18 weeks in 1988 with his controversial Private Member's Bill, will reveal on Wednesday that up to half of the companies in the FTSE 100 will be banned from the fund because they fail to meet its rigorous investment criteria.

Top of the sin list will be Schering, the drugs company that makes PC4, the morning-after pill, and other pharmaceuti-

cal companies involved in the manufacture and distribution of RU-486, the anti-abortion pill. Companies using fetal material in their research will also be banned. Mine controversial, however, will be the fund's decision to ban banks that lend, and supermarkets that sell, to the offending drugs companies.

Both the Society for the

Protection of the Unborn Child and Life, the two most vocal anti-abortion groups with 140,000 members in the UK, are sponsoring the fund and will receive a percentage of the annual fees paid by investors.

Banner Group, a Christian firm of independent financial advisers in West Sussex, of which Lord Alton is a director, is marketing the fund and has already mailed 150,000 investors.

It is eventually hoping to appeal to three million Christians who have been discouraged from ethical funds because of the emphasis on causes such as the environment and animal testing. However, it is retaining traditional ethical objections to companies involved in tobacco, alcohol and pornography. It is also extending its pro-life concept to ban companies with family unfriendly work practices or which use imports made by child labour.

Just how far will interest rates fall?

So we have seen the peak. Last week's hint from Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, about the next move in US interest rates is a clear indication that rates are set to fall around the world.

The Japanese, of course, have already acted, leaving only another 0.25 per cent to go before they hit absolute zero. Although our own Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) predictably failed to cut rates last week, an accompanying statement suggested that it is beginning to dawn that there are more things in heaven and earth than have hitherto been dreamt of in the MPC's philosophy.

Forget the idea of higher interest rates. Now is the time to address the question of how far rates could fall. Some people will find the answer deeply shocking.

There are two ways to get a fix. The first is to look at rates abroad. British interest rates are just about the highest in the developed world. Never mind Japan. Short rates are currently 5.5 per cent in the US and 3.3 per cent in Germany. Moreover, it looks increasingly likely that euro interest rates will start not much higher than this — and will subsequently come lower.

If our interest rates have peaked at 7.5 per cent, it will be particularly significant because this is exactly the level at which they tumbled under Chancellor Lawson in 1988. British interest rates have been in a protracted downward trend for nearly 20 years. In 1979 it took rates of 17 per cent to cool the economy. Now it looks as though 7.5 per cent has done the trick. We should look for the next drop in rates to be well below the previous one, which was 5.25 per cent, reached under Chancellor Clarke.

This seems incredible to anyone steeped in recent British history. But you need to look back further. The year 1749 is a good point to start. In that year, various government debts were consolidated into an issue of "consolidated annuities", or "consols". The interest rate was 3 per cent. Moreover, for most of the succeeding century and a half, consols traded at close to that rate. In 1797 and 1798, however, in the midst of a panic about the possibility that Britain would be defeated, by revolutionary France, they reached a crisis peak — 6.3 per cent.

Until recently, that would have seemed incredibly low for long-term bond rates. Now consols trade at just over



ROGER BOOTLE

5 per cent, and it looks as though 6.3 per cent will not be regained for a long time.

So how low could bond rates go? Put it this way. In 1896-98 the yield on consols reached its low of 2.25 per cent. Japanese government bond yields, however, have recently fallen below 1 per cent. It is a similar story for short rates. After 1914, Bank Rate was set in the range 3 to 7 per cent, but in 1931 it reached 2 per cent. With the exception of a brief period in 1939, it remained at 2 per cent until 1951. Some market rates were even lower. Between 1933 and 1938, and again in the years immediately after the war, discount rates on Treasury Bills were less than 1 per cent. The American

story is even more striking. The average rate on US Treasury Bills in the 1930s was 0.6 per cent. In 1938 and 1939 it reached 0.01 per cent.

From this historical perspective, the investment problem facing both institutions and private investors looks decidedly different. For the past 30 years, most long-term investors, but especially current and prospective pensioners, have overwhelmingly dreaded one thing — inflation. Their whole strategy has been geared to making sure that their capital was not decimated by the insidious progress of the Great Deceit. Now, I suspect, they are about to confront a danger unconsidered for a generation — the prospect of having a capital sum which looks large in relation to previous plans but on which it is impossible to earn a reasonable income.

you can earn as little as 1 per cent, even on bonds. This leaves savers capital-rich but income-poor. Does this ring a bell? The markets gave the strongest signal yet that they have taken leave of their senses when they shot up a week ago on the idea that the Fed might cut rates. By last Friday the message had sunk in that if this does happen it will be scant cause for celebration. It will be because the world economy is in worse shape than they ever imagined.

Because stock market complacency is proving difficult to shift, though, perhaps the big fall in equity prices which I and others have forecast will not come about through a sharp crack, but rather through a fitful, but continued, slide to unimagined depths. What to do? For analysts and policymakers the message is simple. It is still not too late. Throw away the mathematical models and read the history books. For investors, expect the unimaginable. What about 3.5 per cent War Loan trading above par? As for short-term interest rates, it would be fitting, don't you think, if the century were to end where it began, with Bank Rate at 3 per cent. Or would that be too high?

Pilkington completes new line-up

Pilkington, the troubled glassmaker, will this morning confirm that it has completed an overhaul of its non-executive directors. John Macomber, 70, and Sir Michael Quinlan, 67, are to leave the board.

They will be replaced by Jim Leng, chief executive of Laporte, Oliver Stocken, soon to step down as finance director of Barclays, and Bill Harrison, head of corporate advisory at Deutsche Bank.

ScotPower boost ScottishPower, the utility, has decided that any bid for Cinergy of Ohio will be a takeover rather than a merger. Ian Robinson, chief executive, has persuaded Jim Rogers, his counterpart at Cinergy, to relinquish control of the company in return for an offer worth over \$6.5 billion (£4 billion).

Absence costs £1bn The average worker costs their employer £478 a year in time off work, and British business as a whole lost £1 billion in 1997 through employee absence, according to a survey from the CBI sponsored by Bupa, the private healthcare company.

Grid surprise A spokesman for National Grid expressed surprise at a weekend report that it was to buy Britain's air traffic control system for £500 million.

Lyonnais poised for part sale

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

CREDIT LYONNAIS, the state-owned French bank, will this week pave the way for its partial privatisation this autumn when it reveals half-year accounts expected to show a small profit. The Government will seize upon the results to finalise sale details.

With France financing a rescue package likely to cost its taxpayers more than Fr150 billion (£16 billion), several firms have expressed interest in buying a stake to form a core of Credit Lyonnais shareholders.

No British groups are likely to join the core, with Lloyd's TSB, once reported to be a potential buyer, ruling itself out. Allianz, the German insurer, AXA, its French rival, and Paribas, the Paris-based bank, have all said they would like to buy Credit Lyonnais shares. Last week, the Finance Ministry said that a sale would be announced before the end of next month, but that it had yet to decide whether to retain a majority holding in the bank for another year.

The Government has promised the EU to cut its stake below 10 per cent by October 1999, but, with the French stock exchange caught by global turmoil, ministers may wish to sell a minority tranche to chosen groups in November and a bigger stake next year.

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BUSINESS

ECONOMY 49

Roger Bootle on falling interest rates



PROFILE 48
The future for SmithKline Beecham

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1998

Ministers press Philips on threat to 2,000 workers

By Alasdair Murray and Adam Jones

THE GOVERNMENT is holding urgent talks with Philips, the Dutch electronics company, in a last-ditch effort to prevent further heavy job losses in the North East. Philips is considering closing its British television component operations, placing up to 2,000 jobs at risk.

concentration of high-tech inward investment in the region, has already been hard hit by the Asian crisis, which has created a glut of cheap electronic products on the market as well as hitting global demand. Siemens recently shut its semiconductor plant on Tyneside, with the loss of 1,100 jobs, and Fujitsu last month announced the closure of its semiconductor plant in Durham, with a further 600 job losses. The news that Philips is considering its position suggests that the downturn is now spreading to the consumer electronics sector.

to the Government, with a number of senior ministers, including Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, holding parliamentary seats in the area. Mr Mandelson recently committed £100 million in an effort to attract new investment to the region. Philips's plants at Durham, Washington and Burnley, in Lancashire, produce cathode ray tubes for television sets. However, the factories are believed to require substantial investment in order to keep pace with developments in new technology. Philips is expected to disclose next week that it is undertaking a major

push into the new market for digital television.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said that the Government is "holding discussions" with Philips on how it might prevent closure. Ministers are believed to be prepared to offer substantial aid to ensure that the plants remain open.

The North East is facing further job losses in the defence industry, with Vickers poised to announce redundancies at its tank factories in Newcastle and Leeds. The two factories are currently assembling Challenger 2 tanks for the British Army, but work is being scaled

down.

Vickers also appears to have lost out in a battle to form an alliance with the rival tankmaker Alvis despite strong pressure from Schroders, its major shareholder, for a merger.

GKN is believed to be on the verge of signing a deal with Alvis, which will see it hold up to 49 per cent of a merged tank business - valued at up to £300 million on the stock market. Nick Prest, the chairman and chief executive of Alvis, is expected to become chief executive of the new company. The two companies are

also expected to consider making job cuts at GKN's factory at Telford, Shropshire, and Alvis's Coventry plant.

British tankmakers have been poised for a wave of mergers because of widespread over-capacity in Europe. European Governments have been forthright in their support for consolidation across their defence and aerospace industries so that they can compete more effectively with American rivals.

GKN is also in the process of merging its Westland helicopters business with Agusta, part of Finmeccanica, the Italian defence company.

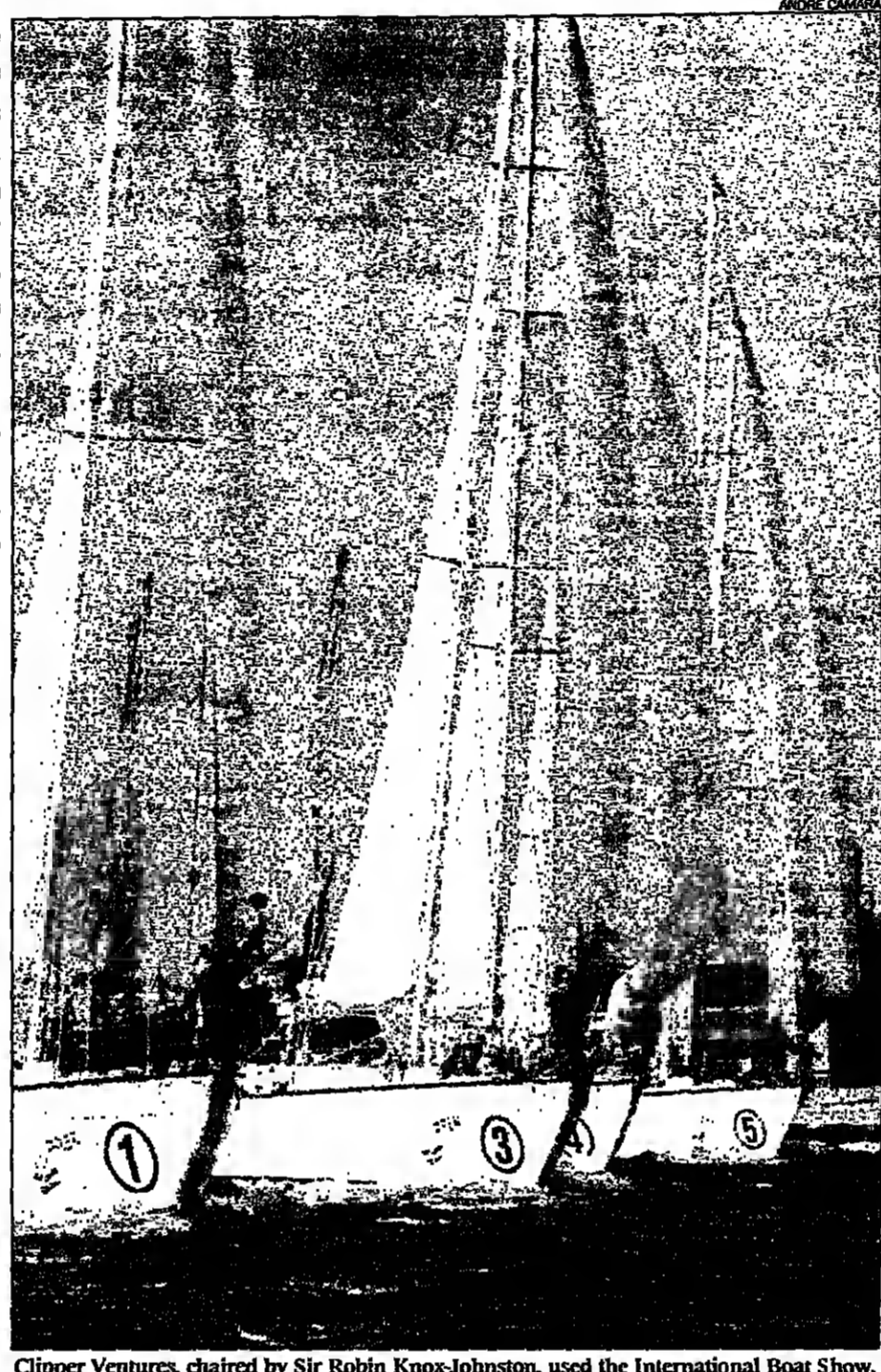
Unions fear open season for job losses

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

HUNDREDS OF thousands of jobs in manufacturing will be lost in a recession that is "just hours" away, two of Britain's biggest unions said yesterday. The AEEU engineering workers' union and the MSF manufacturing, science and finance union launched a powerful attack on the level of interest rates and urged quick action to avert large-scale job losses throughout industry. Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF, gave warning that there would be "an open season" for job losses if the Bank of England kept its line of beating down inflation through interest rates.

He said that recent calculations that 500,000 jobs would have to go if the Government were to achieve an inflation-free economy would prove correct. The two unions have struck up an alliance ahead of today's opening of the TUC annual conference in Blackpool to fight for manufacturing industry in a move also backed by the Engineering Employers Federation. They want action from the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to bring down rates and to broaden its remit from merely curbing inflation to also stimulating economic growth and protecting jobs.

A further call for lower interest rates came yesterday from the other end of the political spectrum. The free market-oriented Institute of Directors, in a research paper, gave six reasons why rates should be cut, including a fall in consumer and business confidence compounded by the crisis in the Russian economy. Graeme Leach, the IoD's chief economist, said the last interest rate increase, in early June, was "a rise too far, and should be reversed".



Clipper Ventures, chaired by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, used the International Boat Show, Southampton, to announce its £1 million purchase of eight boats for corporate sailing

G7 expected to reject new Russian plea

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

REPRESENTATIVES of the G7 group of nations are today expected to reject Russian pleas for further financial aid to help deal with the country's mounting financial crisis. The meeting, which will be chaired by Sir Nigel Wicks, deputy permanent under-secretary at the Treasury, will hear from Mikhail Kasyanov, Russian Deputy Finance Minister, and Georpi Mamedov, Deputy Foreign Minister.

charge of the central bank during the period of hyperinflation in the early 1990s and has indicated that he is willing to ease monetary policy. President Yeltsin, however, insisted at the weekend that Russia would not turn away from market policies. Mr Primakov added that his Government would not default on its international debts.

However, the G7 is reluctant to provide any fresh help without a clear commitment from Yevgeni Primakov, the new Russian Prime Minister, to reform. In an effort to try to co-ordinate a G7 response to the crisis of confidence in international markets, Gordon Brown is to discuss with Kijichi Miyazawa, the Japanese Finance Minister, Mr Brown is aiming to conduct discussions with all the G7 finance ministers ahead of the full G7 meeting in Washington on October 3. The markets, however, remain concerned that with President Clinton concentrating on a rebuttal of the allegations in the Starr report, there is little hope of any significant initiative from the G7.

Goldman lags behind its rivals

GOLDMAN Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank that last week said it was ploughing ahead with its planned \$25 billion (£15 million) flotation, is losing ground in the crucial area of futures and options, a survey published today shows (Jason Nisse writes). Thousands of derivatives dealers were asked to name their leading competitors in the annual survey by Risk magazine. Goldman was given top three ranking in just 12 markets. This compares with JP Morgan, which was nominated in 64 categories and Chase Manhattan, which scored in 49 and led the most lucrative category, the \$23 billion-a-year interest rate swaps market.

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

- ACROSS: 1 Come to bad conclusion (2,2,5) 3 Unacceptably different (7) 6 Dried coconut (5) 10 Fish: part of shoe (4) 11 Feeling sick/offensive (5) 13 Horse-rider (6) 15 Ornamental cave (6) 17 Blend, merge (5) 18 Studious pupil (4) 21 Rye-affecting fungus (5) 22 In a perfect world (7) 23 Salvation: conversion into cash (10)
- DOWN: 2 Part of body: type of orange (3) 3 Mosque prayer leader (4) 4 Venetian painter, his auburn shade (6) 5 Pedigree (5) 6 Uphold, sustain (7) 7 Forsyie creator (10) 8 Book cover (4,6) 12 Down in dumps (5) 14 Bad error, esp. when dropped (7) 16 (Church) division (6) 19 I shall obey (radio) (5) 20 Written material for study (4)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1509
ACROSS: 4 Pivot 7 Original 8 Sand 9 Gertrude 10 Repeat 13 Foment 14 Hatful 15 Smithy 18 Watchful 19 Park 20 Balmoral 21 Hanoi
DOWN: 1 Solace 2 Girde 3 Fingal 4 Platform 5 Virulent 6 Talent 11 Petition 12 Abu Dhabi 14 Howdah 15 Solemn 16 Impure 17 Hurdle
- SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO MONDAY HOLIDAY JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 Acuser 5 Charge card 10 Marjoram 16 Numcrical 17 Crown 18 Clandestine 19 Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! 20 Touse 22 Nony 23 Quendle 24 Sitting tenant 26 Unromantic 28 Toic 29 Side effect 33 Orestia 34 Disproving 36 Inhibit 39 Steak and kidney pie 41 Augustine 42 Serenaded 44 Piece de resistance 46 Overfly 47 Chartreuse 48 Stripped 51 Superpower 53 Farm 55 Self-regard 58 Disengagement 59 Socratic 61 Fiji 63 Swombs 64 Collective bargaining 66 Work wonders 67 Pains 68 Mainframe 69 Sideral 70 New England 71 Greater
DOWN: 1 Annigoni 2 Common sense 3 Strays 4 Reevaluation 5 Chlorinate 6 Alcohol 7 Goodliest 8 Conversation piece 9 Reognits 11 Aide 12 Just one of those things 13 Reinstate 14 Meekest 15 Law-abiding 21 Agreeing 25 Not take no for an answer 27 Child's play 30 Title deeds 31 Horseshoes 32 Five senses 35 Present participle 37 Barm 38 Skid 40 Eyrre 41 Apex 43 Day-to-day 45 Intermingling 47 Crise-soled 49 Participant 50 Clear as mud 52 Piston rod 54 Misgiving 56 Deceased 57 King Lear 58 Disowns 60 Chelsea 62 Rifle 65 Inca

More employers forecast strikes

By Our Industrial Correspondent

STRIKES and other industrial action will increase over the next year, with the public sector hardest hit. There will also be a "significant" revival in the trade unions as new recognition laws are enforced, according to a survey of industrial relations. The rise in industrial action, forecast by Dobb Lupton Alsop, the employment lawyers, follows increases over the past six years that the survey has been conducted. Strikes and unrest will be isolated and discontinuous rather than large all-out incidents. David Bradley and Paul Nicholls, authors of the report, said: "We had hoped last year that industrial unrest would reach a high wa-

ter mark. Sadly this does not appear to be the case." Canvassing of 230 of the UK's biggest employers and unions found that 41 per cent of unionised employers expected more balloting compared with 23 per cent last year. Some 12.5 per cent (4.5 per cent) of those employers forecast strike action. Forty-three per cent expected some form of industrial unrest. Last year the actual incidence of strikes in unionised employers rose from 7 per cent to 11.5 per cent. Action other than strikes rose from 12 per cent to 16 per cent. Ironically, the report found that relations between employers and workers had improved.

Buffett defies market turmoil with 25% rise

From Oliver August in New York



Buffett: long-term policy

WARREN BUFFETT, the Sage of Omaha, has emerged as an unlikely winner from the recent stock market turmoil that wiped out the price gains of the Dow Jones for this year. The share price of Berkshire Hathaway, the investment company run by Mr Buffett, is up 25 per cent for the year, even though its assets show no increase in market value. More than 90 per cent of Berkshire Hathaway's money is invested in eight weighty US stocks, including Coca-Cola, Gillette, American Express and Travelers Group, that have fallen back to their end of 1997 levels. Mr Buffett famously cham-

believed to have significantly changed his equity portfolio this summer. Traditionally, Berkshire's value is always slightly above the value of its combined net assets, representing a premium for Mr Buffett's expertise at picking stocks and selling out at the best times. But the 25 per cent gap that opened up in recent weeks is unprecedented. To benefit from the difference, investors could acquire a portfolio with a share content similar to Mr Buffett's instead of buying Berkshire Hathaway shares. This would be cheaper and investors would also benefit from the differential between Berkshire's corporation tax on profits and the lower capital gains tax paid by individuals.

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